

Submitter: Barbara Abel  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916  
Subject: Oppose SB 916 – Protect Oregon’s Unemployment Insurance System

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 916, which would allow striking workers to collect unemployment benefits. Oregon’s unemployment insurance system is designed to support workers who lose their jobs involuntarily, not those who choose to walk off the job. Expanding benefits to striking workers would place an unnecessary burden on employers, strain the state’s unemployment fund, and make Oregon less attractive for business investment.

Only New York and New Jersey allow unemployment benefits for striking workers—coincidentally, the only states ranked worse than Oregon in CNBC’s 2024 America’s Top States for Business report. Oregon already has the third-highest employer-paid unemployment tax in the nation. Forcing businesses to foot the bill for strikes would drive costs even higher, ultimately hurting both workers and job creators.

Additionally, state agencies must reimburse unemployment benefits on a dollar-for-dollar basis, reducing the buying power of taxpayer dollars that should be used for essential public services.

I urge you to oppose SB 916 and protect Oregon’s economic future. Please vote NO.