

Submitter: Chandra Shekhar Ojha MD
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

RE: Support for SB 916

To the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our concerns.

As we learned during our long and ongoing healthcare workers' strike, we are not paid by the employer and most of us have no other means of income. Even benefits such as health insurance are jeopardised.

I strongly argue that provision for some unemployment income and insurance coverage for illness during a prolonged strike or an employer lockout be mandated by legislation as soon as possible. Already, we are seeing rapid increase in unionization of healthcare employees at all levels in Oregon since start of 2025, and more strikes may be expected. They usually happen after suppression or willful ignorance of employees' work conditions and welfare by the employer, and/or due to lack of employee or patient safety in a healthcare setting.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.
Chandra Shekhar Ojha, MD