

Submitter: Justin Olen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

For the past 3+ years, I have been in process of changing careers. In June 2024, I graduated with a degree in nursing, passed my national boards, and took a job at Providence Seaside Oregon starting in August 2024. I paid for my college experience entirely out of pocket. Nursing school is all encompassing and I did not work during nursing school. I have not earned a steady income for over 3 years.

I worked for a total of 6 months before going on strike in January 2025. If I stayed at work, I would not have had the support system I would have needed to continue as a new nurse - the step between nursing school and "actual nursing" is huge, and I didn't feel comfortable staying. I also support the strike and reasons for striking. However, based on the situation described above, I have no money. I have always been able to support myself and this puts me at odds with being able to support myself.

Striking workers should have access to unemployment funds.