

Submitter: Alysha Henderson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

My name is Alysha, and I am an inside wireman apprentice with IBEW Local 48. I am writing to express my strong support for this bill, which ensures that workers are not disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits if their unemployment is due to an active labor dispute at their workplace.

As an apprentice in the electrical trade, I've learned that solidarity and collective action are fundamental to protecting workers' rights. Strikes and labor disputes are never decisions taken lightly—they often reflect unresolved issues that affect the health, safety, and well-being of employees. Denying unemployment benefits to workers during these times adds unnecessary financial hardship, effectively punishing people for standing up for fair wages, safe conditions, and equitable treatment.

Unemployment insurance exists to support workers through circumstances beyond their control. When a company's refusal to bargain in good faith leads to a labor dispute, workers should not have to choose between fighting for their rights and feeding their families. This bill would provide critical support to ensure that no worker is left behind simply for exercising their right to collective action.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 916 to support workers like me, my mentors, and countless others who rely on fair labor practices to build secure futures.