

Submitter: Josephine QUIJADA

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

My name is Josephine, and I'm a nurse at Providence Milwaukie Hospital. Right now, large employers like Providence have all the power in bargaining because they can afford to stall negotiations indefinitely, while workers risk financial ruin just by holding the line. Striking shouldn't be a battle of who can afford to survive without a paycheck the longest, but without financial protections, that's exactly what it becomes.

SB 916 provides a critical safety net so workers can advocate for better conditions without facing immediate economic hardship. This bill isn't a blank check—workers must reapply weekly to prove eligibility, ensuring benefits aren't misused. Other states, including Alaska, New York and New Jersey, have already adopted similar protections, and there's no reason Oregon shouldn't do the same. This isn't about giving workers an advantage—it's about making sure negotiations are fair.

I urge you to vote YES on SB 916. A fair workplace starts with a fair fight.