

Submitter: Oregon Nurse
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,

I urge your immediate attention and support regarding my unemployment benefits, which I and my fellow striking nurses at Providence deserve. I have dedicated 30 years of my life as a nurse at Providence, providing care to Oregonians, including during the grueling COVID-19 pandemic. Now, I find myself in a dire financial situation because of a strike that should never have been necessary in the first place.

Providence's refusal to offer a fair contract has forced me and my colleagues to take a stand for safe staffing, fair wages, and decent health care insurance, and the respect we have earned through decades of service. No nurse wants to strike—we are caregivers at heart—but we were left with no other option when Providence failed to negotiate in good faith. Despite our sacrifices and commitment, we are now being denied unemployment benefits, a safety net that is crucial for us to continue advocating for a fair and just contract.

I ask for your urgent intervention in this matter. Nurses who have spent their careers protecting and healing our communities should not be left without support when they stand up for their rights. Please advocate for policy changes or immediate relief that would grant striking healthcare workers access to unemployment benefits.

I appreciate your time and consideration and would welcome any opportunity to discuss this further. Thank you for your leadership and for standing with Oregon's nurses.

-Oregon Nurse