

Submitter: Janet R. Pugh RN
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

To the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

Comment in support of Senate Bill 916/House Bill 3434 from a 20yr Providence nurse currently on strike:

I'm writing on the Eve of 1000s of nurses rejecting a 1st Tentative Agreement in our ongoing labor action against a healthcare mega corporation.

First, I'd like to touch on a question our striking nurses are getting a lot of from family, friends & community members. "Why aren't we seeing more about the union side of this in the news?"

Here are some reasons WHY the public isn't getting unbiased strike information in the news:

- *Providence's \$100M annual marketing budget funnels lots of \$\$\$ into local media...
- *Providence's Communications Director is a former news director for KOIN...
- *This company reported over 9 BILLION dollars in net revenue for 2023 (the last public financials)...

That may be why Providence gets to control the mainstream media narrative in this fight!

Fortunately, despite all that influence, the union nurses still have overwhelming community support. Fortunately, Providence doesn't control social media & national influencers... yet. Fortunately, our senators, representatives & governor see us, support us and understand that we are ultimately striking for safe care across the state of Oregon.

Keep all this in mind as you watch the evening news tonight as we may reject their latest "offer". Take it with a grain of salt.

The current offer is evidence of "performative" bargaining by this company. There was never a tentative agreement reached between our union and Providence. Providence just stopped bargaining with our teams which forced a vote. Stonewalling us as they have done for the last 16 months, hoping we'll give up. They are trying to fracture our unity with doctors/providers & other hospital bargaining teams. They

know nurses alone, especially those serving rural communities, don't have the financial means to outlast them.

This strike against Providence is truly historic. Nurses and Doctors joining together to fight back against a corporate healthcare model that prioritizes profit & greed at the expense of their own patient & caregivers health? Unheard of!

A nation of nurses, providers & working class union workers of many industries are all watching Oregon right now to see if collective action can still fight back in America and win.

Providence can't afford to lose if it wants to maintain business (and profits) as usual. So they are waging a war against their own employees. And it's been really ugly and disheartening for those of us out on the strike line. We are a compassionate people in healthcare. We have suffered incredible moral injury from this employer and we have been forced to take our stand on this moral and just high ground. We won't ever recover from this. In many ways, it is worse on an emotional level than what we went through at the height of the pandemic!

We been on strike for a month with no income. We've suffered financial hardships that no contract will fix.

Yet... we are still here. We are still united. We are still fighting.

Please keep seeing us. Please keep supporting us. Please help us stay the course because it's becoming very hard and we are losing hope. We help patients at their most vulnerable moments. This is ours.

Please support this bill and help us balance the scales. Help us put pressure on these rich mega corporations to bargain in good faith in a timely manner.

Janet R. Pugh RN