

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,

Qualifying for unemployment benefits during a strike lasting more than seven days would have been incredibly beneficial for workers, especially those on the front lines fighting for better conditions. Many hospitals have strike insurance, which allows them to pay replacement nurses during a strike, but this often undermines the efforts of nurses on the picket line who are fighting against intolerable working conditions. Having the ability to apply for unemployment during such difficult times would have given nurses the financial support needed to stay on the strike line without the added stress of worrying about bills. This financial security would have allowed us to stand in solidarity for a longer period, as we waited for a fair contract and improvements in our work environment. It would have helped us remain strong in our efforts, fighting not only for better staffing but for the care and well-being of our patients.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.  
Oregon Nurse