

Submitter: Jessie RN
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,

As an American and a human, I know that workers only strike out of necessity--they strike in order to sound the alarm that conditions at a workplace are unacceptable. It would be such a smart use of government action to ensure that striking workers are supported by unemployment benefits during the duration of a strike. When union jobs are strong, communities are strong. I am on the 29th day of striking as a union nurse working at Providence hospital, where my employer has refused to bargain in good faith with our bargaining team for months now. I know that strikes work, but it is always a matter of a profitable corporation against individual laboring people who rely on each paycheck to make needs met. I for example am the sole income-earner in my household and am considering selling everything I can find that has value in my home in order to remain on the strike lines until Providence offers a contract that includes safe staffing, contract alignment, and PTO that is reasonable (since they took away our paid sick leave, we use PTO for sick days--even though we are caring for people who have communicable diseases). Unemployment pay would significantly increase the power of working people.

Please consider passing this bill.
Jessie RN