

Submitter: Prov Medford 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 am writing as an ONA member who is currently on strike. Despite Providence's performative (in the media) show of "being ready to bargain", it is clear they are not doing so in good faith. The contract they are offering after almost a month on strike does not have any meaning movement from their prior proposals and, in fact, contains reductions in economic issues for some nurses.

I am completely dismayed at their behavior. I encourage you to continue to demand they bargain in GOOD FAITH. What they are doing now is just trying to harm us economically for long enough that nurses get desperate and succumb to their demands. They are not negotiating. They are recycling old proposals--the same proposals we are already striking over.

Please, please, do what you can to expedite the passing of SB916 to give nurses some foothold on obtaining a position from which they can continue to fight for necessary changes. This is for the health of our communities, as well as our own livelihoods . The hospital system is lording their wealth over us, while pretending to be "poor" and calling our asks "fiscally unsustainable" and blaming us for disruptions in service. We started negotiations by asking for much less than they have already spent hiring strike breaking nurses. This is not about their ability to pay fair market wage. This is about the rich getting richer and making the middle class sacrifice their livelihood so the rich can wield more power. Striking nurses are not doing this out of greed. If we were in it for the money, we would have crossed the line a long time ago. We are losing our income while on strike, a significant strain and sacrifice. Providence execs who refuse to negotiate fairly do so while receiving a bloated salary. The imbalance is clear.

We need swift resolution. Please join nurses in the fight for a health care system that Oregonians deserve. Right now the only people getting what they "deserve" are strike nurses from other states and hospital execs. Allowing us to receive unemployment helps level the playing field and will be a huge step forward in getting Providence to the table for actual good faith negotiations.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.
Providence Medford Medical Center Nurse