

Submitter: Andrea Kennedy-Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

I urge lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 916 to support striking workers in Oregon.

We are dedicated professionals standing up for fair treatment, safe working conditions, a livable wage and the respect we deserve.

As a public servant working for Child Welfare, I know the sacrifices and commitment it takes to care for our community. We are frontline workers fighting for the resources and support we need to continue delivering the high-quality services every Oregonian deserves.

I stand in solidarity with all unionized workers as we make our voices heard. It's time to put people before profits and ensure our employees are valued for the vital work we do.

Workers strike only after every other option has been exhausted. In many cases, they continue working under expired contracts for months or years, making sacrifices because they care about their jobs. SB 916 is a simple, fair measure to ensure that when workers must strike, they don't face total financial devastation.

Employers often use healthcare benefits as a weapon in labor disputes. Cutting off healthcare during a strike puts workers and their families in an impossible situation. Unemployment benefits are a reasonable safeguard that will prevent workers from falling into crisis while they stand up for fair wages and conditions.

This bill is low-cost, does not significantly impact employers, and would result in shorter strikes and fairer contracts. Oregon should pass SB 916 and support its workers.