

**Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and esteemed members of the committee,**

For the record, my name is Wlnsvey Campos, and I represent Senate District 18, which includes Beaverton, Hillsboro, Aloha, and parts of unincorporated Washington County. I am here today to express my strong and unwavering support for **SB 916**, a critical piece of legislation that ensures individuals otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits are not disqualified when their unemployment results from a labor dispute that is actively ongoing at their place of employment.

The intent of this bill is clear: to protect workers caught in labor disputes from facing unnecessary financial hardships. **SB 916** guarantees financial support for workers affected by strikes and labor conflicts, ensuring that union members maintain access to unemployment benefits during such challenging times. Oregon has both a duty and an opportunity to foster fairness by acknowledging that unemployment due to a labor dispute is not the fault of the employee. As such, they should not be penalized by losing access to essential assistance.

Additionally, this bill holds employers accountable, encouraging transparency and requiring them to bargain in good faith for the wellbeing of their workers. This expectation should not be situational, but rather a continuous and fundamental standard—at a minimum.

**SB 916** also amends several provisions in existing law, aligning Oregon's unemployment system with federal regulations and ensuring compliance with both the Social Security Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. This alignment will strengthen the integrity of our system and ensure that our workers remain protected under federal guidelines.

Unemployment insurance is paid for by employees, and they should have the right to access those benefits when needed. Extending unemployment benefits to striking workers would cost less than 1% of total UI expenditures in states that have considered this legislation. Beyond its moral imperative, the economic impact of this policy is significant: it helps stabilize local economies by ensuring that money continues to flow into communities where labor disputes are occurring.

In conclusion, **SB 916** is about providing Oregon's union members the support and dignity they deserve while exercising their labor rights. It is about protecting hardworking members of our community and ensuring they have the resources to meet their basic needs. With your support, we can help create a future where every unionized worker has a fair opportunity to negotiate with their employers, thereby leveling the playing field.

Colleagues, I respectfully urge your support for this vital legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wlnsvey Campos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Senator Wlnsvey Campos, SD-18