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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

I would like to express my support for SB 916. I am a strong supporter for my union and firmly believe that I have better wages, benefits, and working conditions because of the strength of my union. When my union negotiates with my employer, I often hear fear of going on strike because many don't have a decent savings to use during strike time, even with some union financial support. Yet, we are all expected to continue to pay our bills, mortgage, and student loans despite the loss of income resulting from a strike. Having SB 916 be enacted into law would help all working class individuals receive minimal financial support while on strike as a last resort for negotiations.

Workers don't go on strike lightly. By the time a strike happens, employees have often spent weeks, months, or even years negotiating in good faith. Many continue working under expired contracts because they believe in their work and need to pay their bills. SB 916 is a simple, fair policy that will prevent striking workers from falling into financial crisis.

Employers have the power to strip healthcare benefits from striking workers, leaving them with impossible choices. UI is a partial wage replacement, not a full paycheck, but it will allow workers to stay in their homes, keep their lights on, and avoid financial ruin.

This policy has minimal costs to the UI system and to employers, but it would make a world of difference to working families. Passing SB 916 ensures workers can bargain fairly without being starved into accepting bad deals.

Oregon should stand up for working people by passing this bill.