

Submitter: Virginia Lodewick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

I am an RN that is currently on strike at Providence (st Vincent's). My co workers have been on strike now for 28 days. Many of these nurses are younger, and don't have the financial cushioning to be without a paycheck; Many of them are single income households and it's a testament to them that they have held out this long. One of my co-workers has said that she will have to cross the line next week because she cannot afford to not work.

Providence is playing the long game currently. The tentative agreement that was reached yesterday is essentially what they were offering in October- yet they are willing to pay 14 million to pay for replacement nurses at twice the salary as what their nurses make.

There is no agreement on how to reconcile the staffing of the units based on acuity/census with regards to the state law. (providence has taken the lowest staffing available that meets the state criteria- but doesn't take into account how sick the patients are.

having unemployment benefits would level the playing field. Nurses would be able to hold out against providence- and providence- seeing that would be compelled to bargain in good faith- instead of the insulting offers that we just received.

thank you for considering us. We are in need of help.

regards.

Gail Lodewick BSN RN,
charge nurse, Cardiovascular Lab, Providence St Vincent's hospital.