

Submitter: Jesus Martinez
On Behalf Of: BCTGM Local 364
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jesus Martinez and I am a proud member of BCTGM Local 364.

I strongly encourage your support of SB 916 which would repeal the law blocking unemployment benefits to workers on strike. This bill would help ensure that workers are able to stay afloat while fighting for a fair contract.

I work at Nabisco and was on strike for 42 days in 2021. We struck due to our employer changing our healthcare benefits to make us pay more, making rules around our overtime pay and being inflexible with our work schedules. We were the first local to go out, but many others all over the country followed quickly.

Although we had a strike fund it was only \$105 a week, which went entirely towards filling my gas tank to get from home to the strike line daily. Because of the immense financial strain I had to work at the Amazon warehouse that had recently opened in NE Portland and did shipping for them in the evenings after being on the strike line.

I have three kids and had to continue to support my family while on strike. None of us took this strike lightly, and many of us had to really hustle with other jobs. But we did not falter, we knew we were striking for a better life and future.

Workers like me strike to fight for a better future for our families and communities, it is never an easy decision but we have to fight to be treated fairly.

I strongly encourage you all to support this policy.