

Submitter: Linda Radcliffe  
On Behalf Of: Myself and ONA members striking now and in the fut  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

To whom it may concern in the matter,

As some or maybe all of you know, the nurses at 8 Providence facilities are actively striking against Providence St Joseph Hospital System. I understand that the intent of this Bill is to provide unemployment relief for workers in a situation such as this. I assure you that none of the nurses currently on the strike line wish to be there, of course we would much rather be in the hospital tending to the patients of our community. The purpose of our strike is mainly to bring to light the impossible situation of providing care without the support and resources that we need to safely do so. Many nurses clock out from every shift feeling moral injury that results from not being able to provide the best care that we can. The reason for this is overwhelming nurse:patient ratio, overwhelming hospital census on a daily basis and inadequate staffing to safely care for our patients. This is not new to Providence leadership and they refuse to do anything about it even when putting patients at risk. The hospital has offered a TA that I fully expect to be rejected for the sole reason that Providence refuses to bargain in good faith. Their offer is nearly identical to the one from Oct 2024 with very little difference and very little incentive to accept it.

I have been a nurse since 1980. I have loved my 45yr. career. I have been proud to be a nurse and love caring for patients. Of course the strike has been a hardship on my husband and myself. It has been emotionally painful and financially difficult. I have had to take money from our retirement savings in order to cover our living expenses for this past month and will probably need to take more if the strike isn't settled very soon. I expect that it will go on for some time as many of the nurses (including myself ) intend to vote no. It is a very important stance that we are taking for the safety of our patients, benefits for our families, fair market wages, and improved quality of life for future generations of nurses. Financial support in the form of unemployment benefits would make a great difference for labor and workers who find themselves in the unfortunate situation of having to stand up against unfair labor practice and exploitation in the future. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Linda Radcliffe RN