

Submitter: Beth Lepire RN
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

RE: Support for SB 916

To the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

I have had the distinct honor of being a labor and delivery nurse for 29 years and more recently a charge nurse of our unit. Being a part of that particular moment in a family's history, a birth of a baby, is a tremendous responsibility. Having a team of competent nurses, that can work as a well oiled machine, is vital to the health, and sometimes the survival of our patients.

I have also been part of the nursing negotiating team to try to persuade Providence to move toward a better contract so we can have better staffing within the hospitals. Going on strike has opened my eyes to the business of health care. Even appealing to our executives for the safety of our patients has not been able to move them. The ability for us to result in a strike was our final, exhausted move to fight for safe staffing. The courage of our nurses to even be able to strike really is based on each nurses financial position. The ability for these nurses to get unemployment funds could make the difference for getting the safe staffing these nurses know we need. Thank you for your consideration!

Beth Lepire RN