

Submitter: James Jackson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

I am an educator and a member of AFT, Local 6020. I support 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.

Because of low salaries, educators often live paycheck to paycheck, giving employers an unfair advantage during bargaining. Ending this exclusion of UI benefits for strikes that go over 7 days will help make sure that workers can continue to pay the bills in the event of a strike. This will mean that we aren't forced into an unsafe or unfair contract just because the employer can starve us out. And those UI payments will work as intended: to also put money back into the local economy at times of economic distress.

Strikes are always a measure of absolute last resort. Please help ensure that workers like me are not forced into unsafe or unfair contracts simply because we can't afford to exercise our legally protected right to strike. Please vote yes on SB 916.

Thank you.

James Jackson