

Submitter: J Hunnicutt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

As a business owner, and an employee, I am 100% opposed to having unemployment costs raised to pay for striking workers. The bulk of employees in this state, are not union employees. You're punishing the masses to accommodate the few. It's unfair to non-unionized labor - unless that is the idea? To make it harder for the standard employee who isn't unionized? Also, I know when a portion of the Kaiser Staff went on strike, part of their bargaining agreement included back pay for the days they were on strike. So employees and unions should address it in that fashion. Otherwise they will likely all be double dipping and there is no way for the state to know that they received a "bonus" to cover pay for hours on strike. The general public doesn't get to just walk away from their job to demand anything. Well, they can - but it's considered a no call no show, cause for termination and a denial of unemployment benefits... so why should the public fund paying others to do that exact thing? If they choose to strike, that is a choice they are personally making. They have union contracts that they rally against, or they don't like the contract being offered... do what the rest of the working class has to do and find another job if it's so miserable. But to ask the rest of the tax payers to fund your days off picketing your company is ludicrous. It may be pennies on the dollar as an increase, but lower and middle class workers need every penny on the dollar they can get and you're asking them to pay for someone else, when all they can do is go to work, earn a wage, and if and when needed - look for a different or better paying job. Unionized employees and unions themselves should NOT get special treatment from the government. If anything the state should be making it easier for people to NOT have to be part of the Union, for it to be illegal for a Union to threaten an employee if they refuse to strike. They are paid a pretty high dollar value by their membership to negotiate on their behalf, they could use some of that money to pay lost wages. And they should not be able to force their members to walk away from a job by fining them or revoking their membership. THAT is something the state should address.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

J Hunnicutt