

Submitter: Beth Keown 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,

As a nurse working for a large system, I have been on strike now for almost 4 weeks. Going on strike is not something that is done lightly or in haste.

The conditions in my work place have been declining with staffing being the worst change. Providence has cut staffing in direct care nurses. The patients I care for have high needs and should be a 3/1 nursing to patient ratio. It is their normal for me to have 4 patients. This has caused patients to not get the care they need and creates high risk to patients since I am not able to give them the time needed to insure they are complication free.

Because of the safety issues I have seen I agreed to strike for better conditions. I am the bread winner for my home and this has been a great sacrifice for us.

Having the employee eligible for unemployment after a week would encourage the employer to bargain with the employees.

We have been on strike for 25 days now and Providence only started negotiating 7 days ago. Large corporations have the ability to make employees "wait it out" until the employees are in dire financial distress.

Please vote to make employees on strike over 7 days eligible for unemployment. This will help expedite negotiations with corporations and unions. Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.

Beth Keown RN