

Crystal, Oregon healthcare worker
February 5, 2025
Testimony in Support of UI for Striking Workers

To the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 916/House Bill 3434.

As a healthcare provider I see how corporate greed and decisions to maximize profits over patient care impact the health and wellness of our communities in Oregon every day. The decision of a healthcare provider to strike is not made lightly, as we take our duties to care for our communities very seriously. As a current ONA bargaining member, I can confidently tell you that the decision to withhold labor is a last resort after months of (unpaid) days spent bargaining. Employers, such as Providence, rely on tactics of wearing down employees' resources and morale. Rather than bargain in good faith to support their employees and the communities they serve.

Having the option to be paid while on strike is a game-changer for union workers. It would mean no longer needing to decide between the stability of a paycheck to provide for our families, or the risk of allowing rapid deterioration in community health and welfare. Big corporations have deep pockets to withstand a strike. While those of us that have been chronically underpaid, in a world that gets more expensive every day, have limited resources to hold the line.

Labor unions are what pulled us out of the Great Depression. They are ingrained into the fabric of the middle and working class. When unions thrive, the working class thrives, and our economy is better for it. Help us hinder corporate greed.

Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 916/House Bill 3434.