

Submitter: Jessica Johnson 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,

Our patients deserve the best care possible, and the only way to make that achievable is through safe staffing and caregiver retention. When the caregivers aren't cared for, it shows. And let's not forget; not only are we caregivers for our community, we are also part of that community!

It has been disappointing and disheartening to watch the company that I've loved working at for almost 4 years dig in their heels and refuse to bargain in good faith for over a year. It has made me feel disposable. It was crucial for us to fight for a fair contract, for the benefit of our patients and community.

My colleagues and I have sacrificed and gone without pay for almost a month to fight for a fair contract, but it hasn't been a fair fight. We don't have the resources that this billion dollar company has. While we are going in debt, missing payments on our rent, car, mortgage, and electricity, unable to feed and care for our own families, money is clearly no object for Providence. They are spending millions of dollars per week on replacements for us, instead of investing that money back into their own caregivers and community. Please help us to even the playing field by allowing striking workers to receive unemployment.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.  
Jessica Johnson RN