

Submitter: Maria 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,

We as nurses were trying to negotiate with Providence and hoping that they will do it in good faith. We have been fighting for good benefits, a pay raise to keep up with the high cost of living and most especially for staffing to ensure that we keep our patients safe.

As nurses, we've encountered a lot of stress in ensuring that we deliver safe and quality care to all patients entrusted within our care. There were also times when we put our lives in danger. I myself experienced being physically assaulted by one of my patients. The patient population has changed a lot especially in Portland area. We are caring for a lot of mental health issues. Short staffing will only put us more at risk due to the lack of back-up staff that could assist us. This is why we are fighting for a fair contract.

This strike has caused a lot of hardship to me and my family. Even though we have some money saved for emergencies, we are quickly depleting it.

This bill could help us in the future and would give us more leverage in negotiating with our employer.

We would like to extend our appreciation to all our lawmakers who are supporting us in this fight.

Maria RN