

Submitter: Oregon Nurse  
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,

I am a striking worker who is employed in Oregon state, and has been since 2000 (aside from 2 years between 2015-2016). I am in support of Senate Bill 916/House Bill 3434 providing unemployment wage support to striking workers. Unions are a great step in solving the great imbalance between workers in our state and corporations, but during our negotiations for the past 15 months, and 4 week long strike, I've seen the great power imbalance occurring on a daily basis. Our employer has deep pockets and is choosing common union busting techniques to force workers back to work without a fair contract. They had to be forced back to the bargaining table at the behest of the Governor of Oregon, yet when it came time to provide a fair contract, they showed they are still interested in performing wage theft, by refusing to provide backwages for all striking workers. Our employer claims they are unable to pay our demands while providing lavish salaries to strike replacement workers, and their own administration.

Prior to the strike, knowing it was about to take place, and during the strike I have had to perform great sacrifices for myself and my family. I'm willing to do this for the greater good of our union members, and community but I know not all are able to do so. Our tax system needs provide unemployment wages during long term strikes to ensure the working public can still afford groceries, fuel, healthcare, childcare and more where costs have increased faster than our wages. The more workers that feel supported enough to safely strike, the shorter the strike will be and we can get back to doing what we do best.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.  
Oregon Nurse