

Submitter: Danilo Aguilar
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

To the Oregon State Legislature,

My name is Danilo, and I am a registered nurse currently on strike at Providence. I am writing in strong support of SB 916 / HB 3434, which would provide unemployment benefits for striking workers after the first week of a work stoppage.

Right now, my colleagues and I are fighting for fair wages, safe staffing, and improved working conditions—issues that directly impact patient care. We did not take this strike lightly. We exhausted every avenue to negotiate in good faith, but Providence refused to prioritize the needs of frontline workers and, in turn, the well-being of our patients.

However, one of the greatest challenges we face is financial hardship. The ability to collect unemployment benefits after the first week of a strike would be a game-changer. Without this safety net, many of us are struggling to pay rent, afford groceries, and support our families while we stand up for better working conditions. Meanwhile, our employer has little incentive to return to the bargaining table quickly, knowing that they hold the financial advantage over us.

If SB 916 / HB 3434 were already in place, Providence might have been more motivated to negotiate in good faith, rather than prolonging the dispute at the expense of both workers and patient care. This bill would level the playing field and give workers a fair chance to advocate for their rights without being pushed to the brink of financial ruin.

I urge you to stand with working Oregonians—nurses, teachers, grocery workers, and so many others—who are fighting not just for ourselves but for the communities we serve. Please vote YES on SB 916 / HB 3434 and ensure that no worker is forced to choose between demanding fair treatment and putting food on the table.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Danilo Aguilar
Providence Nurse & ONA member