

Submitter: Justine Johansen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

As a union represented nurse, I want to say that we have chosen our professions to dedicate ourselves to the wellbeing of our patients. When the 'system' becomes corrosive to the care we want to provide, because profit is consistently chosen over patients, we need to be able to stand up to that system.

Currently, standing up to course-correct the Goliath of this system means that, as nurses and providers, we further have to sacrifice our personal and our family's security and wellbeing on a picket line. Those who profit and are invested in NOT having our voices heard, meanwhile, bear no apparent personal cost for their decisions. Their exorbitant salaries continue as the strike drags on. They can afford the health care they need. They are not out in the cold.

The field is not likely to be leveled in a way that represents actual justice while the profit motive remains a normalized driving factor in health care. That means that, all the more, we need there to be some systemic support to ensure that our voices are heard when our employers are heavily invested in not listening.

The community deserves to have the people who care directly for them advocate for what they know, what they see and hear, and what they experience is needed. Individual, personal hardship is willfully inflicted on those striking by a system with demonstrably ample means to throw at "waiting things out". Patients do not deserve to be forced to bear outcomes that determined by concessions forced by this kind of coercion.