

Submitter: Erin 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,

Thank you for considering these important bills.

Providence caregivers have been on strike now for 4 weeks. We just rejected their most recent offer - which was oddly very similar to their weak October 2024 proposal. It's impossible to anticipate how long these labor disputes will last. It makes sense that it's especially challenging to prepare for a strike, as we were instructed. I did my best to set money aside for bills, but I never expected to go without pay for more than a month. I am fortunate that my children are grown and I've (finally) paid off nursing school loans. Many of our younger nurses have young children AND considerable education debt, along with mortgages or exorbitant rent.

I have been with Providence for 20 years - 18 of those years as a nurse. This is the second time in 2 years that I have been on strike at Providence. Our first strike (at Providence Portland, 2023) was a time limited strike. We knew that it wouldn't go on forever and were especially pleased when Providence came back to the table and offered a decent contract that we agreed to.

I recently transferred to my local hospital, Providence Willamette Falls, where my co-workers have been working without a contract for over a year. Everyone I know there is committed to working in a smaller community hospital and is extremely passionate about caring for our diverse community. The challenge we face is having trusted that our employer is actually invested in our community, as they continue to claim.

Across Providence and now across Oregon, we understand that Providence invests millions in corporate executive pay and bonuses vs taking an active role in caring for their hard working staff. They are large and powerful enough, that the sacrifice of our little strike means nothing to them. They have ample funds to bring to the negotiating table, yet they have withheld these funds and refused to pay wages that we've earned.

Striking workers in Oregon deserve some protection from the corporate greed and indifference that Providence is now known for. The whole purpose of organized labor is to protect workers from corporations like Providence. Their greed is weakening the

health and vitality of our state - impacting generations of nurses to come and the strength of the state's labor movement.

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