

Submitter: Becky 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 care for our patients tirelessly. Day in and day out we put our patients first but there comes a time when we have to step back and look at the big picture. Our patients deserve the best of care from great nurses but when an employer makes it difficult to safely care for our patient and forces the RN to strike not because we want to but to do it to protect our patients and protect our own health we as RN's need help and support. Striking employees are making sacrifices in hopes to gain a better workplace. We want to work but when it becomes clear that the employer is valuing their bottom line more than the employees and the employer will not listen our last resort is to strike. For an employee to strike it is a very difficult decision that is made and it is not taken lightly. An employee strikes in hopes that the employer will finally listen and take into account the employee position. The employee when on strike is sacrificing everything their financial future, mental future and wellbeing. We need support as a striking worker being able to obtain unemployment benefits is critical for us as workers trying to make a better work environment we do not have infinite resources. By allowing the striking worker to have unemployment benefits you are encouraging the employer to negotiate in good faith to improve the workplace for both sides not just prolonging the strike til the striking worker is bankrupted and the toxic workplace not corrected.

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