

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

caroline,

Thank you so much for taking the time to send a letter to your legislators in support of SB 916 which would extend Unemployment Insurance to striking workers! This bill is a top priority of Oregon Labor in the 2025 session and we need your help, today, to move it out of committee and onto the floor of the Oregon State Senate for its first vote.

We need as many supporters of SB 916 as possible to submit written testimony today to the Senate Committee on Labor and Business. The committee is holding another public hearing on SB 916 tomorrow (Tuesday, February 11) at 8:00am. Submitting written testimony is easy and only takes a few minutes.

Here's how to take action:

1. Follow this link to the legislative website
2. Check to make sure the meeting for "2/11/2025 8:00am" is selected and that "SB 916" is selected
3. Fill out your information. Only your name and City/Organization will be public
4. Select "In Support" under the "position" question
5. Select "Text Testimony" at the bottom of the page
6. Copy and paste the below or personalize your testimony with your own experience:

My name is _____ and I'm a _____ and a member of _____ union. I support SB 916 which would repeal the law blocking unemployment benefits to workers on strike. This bill would help ensure that workers are able to stay afloat while fighting for a fair contract.

Share your experience on (any of all of the below):

- Specific reasons workers go on strike (cuts at x% to wages or benefits, safety etc)
- The process of a strike vote
- How personal financial concerns of a strike held your union back from getting a better contract
- What unemployment insurance benefits would have meant to you in a real or hypothetical strike

Ending this exclusion of UI benefits for strikes that go over 7 days will help make sure that workers like me can continue to pay our rent, feed our families, afford prescription drugs or pay our COBRA health care payments while out on strike. This will mean that we aren't forced into an unsafe or unfair contract just because the employer can starve us out. And those UI payments will work as intended: to also put money back into the local economy at times of economic distress.

Strikes are always a measure of absolute last resort. Please help ensure that workers like me – nurses, teachers, grocery and construction workers and so many more – are not forced into unsafe or unfair contracts simply because we can't afford to exercise our legally protected right to strike. Please vote yes on SB 916.