

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

My name is Sharon Loney and I'm a State worker for the Oregon Department of Revenue and a member of SEIU 503 Local 150 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. Please vote in support of this bill.

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

I believe this should pass for workers. There have been so many Unions in Oregon that have been on Strike this year. As you well know The State of Oregon contract is expiring and bargaining has started. I have been standing in Solidarity as I can with Striking workers. This bill is so important for workers like bigfoot who have been on Strike for about 4 months now. This would make a huge difference for the laborers in our state that are in union jobs.

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.