

Submitter: LOURDES REVUELTA

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

RE: Electronic Testimony for SB 916 Public Hearing scheduled for Feb. 11, 2025 at 8 a.m.

My name is Lourdes Revuelta, I am employed at Ironworkers USA Federal Credit Union, which helps union Ironworkers in all 50 states, but locally, we have members from Ironworkers Local 29. I am a member of OPEIU Local 11 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. This is important to me for a few different reasons, but the most important reason is because my husband is part of ironworkers Local 29, and he is the main financial support for our family. It would give our family peace of mind, knowing that they will be paid, if the also had to strike to fight for a fair and safe contract.

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 – office professionals, 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.

Respectfully,

Lourdes Revuelta