

Submitter: violet kawano

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Dear Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

My name is Violet, and I'm a nurse at Providence Milwaukie Hospital. Right now, I'm on strike because conditions have become unbearable—not just for nurses, but for the patients we care for. Yet, while we fight for safe staffing and fair wages, giant hospital systems like Providence can afford to wait us out. They receive millions in subsidies and taxpayer dollars, yet the very workers keeping these hospitals running are left with nothing when we take a stand. How does that make sense?

SB 916 would provide a basic foundation of financial security so nurses like me aren't pushed into financial crisis just for demanding better conditions. This bill isn't a free pass—workers have to reapply weekly to prove eligibility, ensuring it's used as intended.

I urge you to vote YES on SB 916. If hospitals can receive public support, so should the workers who make them function.

Thank you.