

Submitter: Henriette Kagene

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

My name is Henriette, and I am a nurse at Providence Milwaukie Hospital. Right now, the ability of healthcare workers to negotiate fair contracts is completely unbalanced. Employers like Providence have the money and resources to drag out bargaining indefinitely, while the nurses fighting for better conditions are forced to choose between paying their bills and standing up for what's right. This is not a fair negotiation—it's a battle of financial endurance, and corporations always have the upper hand.

Striking is a last resort, but when conditions become intolerable, we have no choice but to take a stand for our patients and the future of healthcare. The financial strain is immense, and many of us are struggling just to afford rent, food, and other necessities. SB 916 doesn't provide striking workers with massive payouts—it simply ensures we can meet basic needs without throwing ourselves or our families into financial crisis.

Please vote YES on SB 916. Nurses are fighting for safer hospitals and better patient care, and we need the ability to do so without losing everything in the process.