

Submitter: Junta Chinen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

My name is Junta, and I am a nurse at Providence Milwaukie Hospital. Right now, healthcare workers are at a severe disadvantage when it comes to negotiating fair contracts. Large hospital systems like Providence have deep pockets and the ability to delay bargaining endlessly, while the nurses advocating for better conditions are left struggling to make ends meet. Instead of a fair discussion, it becomes a matter of who can financially survive the longest—and the corporations always have the upper hand.

Patient safety and working conditions have reached a breaking point, we have no choice but to strike. The financial burden is crushing, forcing many of us to worry about rent, groceries, and other essentials while we fight for a healthcare system that works for everyone. SB 916 doesn't provide windfalls—it simply ensures that striking workers can cover the bare necessities so they don't have to choose between their families' well-being and standing up for what's right.

I urge you to vote YES on SB 916. Nurses are taking a stand for safer staffing and better patient care, and we deserve the ability to do so without being pushed to the brink of financial ruin.