

Submitter: Patrick Hennessy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

My name is Patrick Hennessy and I am a union nurse and I strongly urge you to consider supporting SB 916. Workers need to be able to pay their bills, rent, mortgage, childcare, etc when forced to go on strike because their employer doesn't value them or offer decent wages. There is a perverse incentive among employers to draw out a strike as long as possible because they know how hard it is for people to go off the job and not get paid. And not all unions have the ability to cover lost wages or offer financial assistance to striking workers. If employers can ride out the strike as long as possible they know there is a high chance that workers will cross the picket line and force unions to end the strike. Giving workers the opportunity to qualify for unemployment benefits helps keep workers and employers on equal footing in order to ensure honest bargaining. Thank you for accepting my testimony.