

Submitter: Sarah Palmer  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Sarah Palmer  
3/1/2025  
RE: Testimony in Support of SB 916

To the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

Did you know healthcare workers die by suicide at a disproportionately high rate? It's a field with insanely intense stressors, even in the best of situations. We are never in the best of situations. I have seen how poor work conditions burns through staff. My worst shifts have been where an overwhelming workload has forced me to walk away from patients in distress because I simply do not have enough time for everyone. It is a horrible, horrible feeling to want to help someone and to be in a position where you could help them, but you simply do not have the resources, time, staff, or energy to provide that care. That is why I was one of the many nurses in Oregon who went on strike during January and February. The core of nursing is to be a patient's advocate. When we went on strike, we were advocating not just for our own rights as workers but for our patients who suffer and die as a result of poor workplaces. I consider the strike an extension of my duty as a nurse, not a dereliction.

That's why I strongly support this bill. Unemployment insurance would have made a tremendous difference to me over the last 46 days. Corporations have the deep pockets to maintain a strike. My colleagues who live paycheck to paycheck, who already worked second jobs and sold plasma to make ends meet, do not. We deserve a level playing field for negotiations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I look forward to your support,  
Sarah Palmer