

Submitter: Dana Henry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

I oppose eligibility for unemployment insurance for those workers who are striking. I am a nurse of 20 years as well as a city councilor, so I see the situation from both sides. I realize participating in a strike may put involved workers in a bad financial position. However, I think the financial incentive may also incentivize frivolous strikes and removes the incentive to come to a quick resolution of the issue. In addition, while during a strike workers are refusing to work as a bargaining chip, they are still technically employed. They could choose to find other work if they are not happy with their current employer, but are choosing not to and instead are seeking improved conditions at their current place of employment. If they were allowed to still get unemployment benefits, I think this creates an unfair advantage to the striking worker that someone else who is truly out of a job does not have - i.e. the requirement to be actively LOOKING for employment. In addition, as a taxpayer, I don't want my tax dollars going to someone who is striking, as I may not agree with their reason for striking (i.e. out of greed rather than a true problem, for example).