

Submitter: Melanie Landon-Hays

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Faculty at Western Oregon University are some of the lowest paid faculty in the public university system in the state of Oregon. As a Union, we work hard to advocate for and organize our members to speak up for cost of living salary adjustments and raises that will put us on equal footing with our peers. We know the power of putting our voices together in a strike to speak up for better wages, but we have to tread carefully because we know how much a strike can challenge our members and their livelihoods. Many of our members are barely making it as it is, so they are hesitant to strike and lose any of their benefits. Providing unemployment insurance to striking workers would help us to strengthen our Union and advocate for our members' needs more effectively.