

Submitter: Chad Kernutt
On Behalf Of: WE THE PEOPLE and TAX PAYERS
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I urge you to please vote NO on SB-916. Whether you believe in God or not we are a Judeo-Christian founded nation founded on biblical principles and ethics. God is very clear in His word that if you willingly refuse to work than you deserve no benefits and should be on your own with nobody (tax payers, fellow Oregonians, private businesses) taking care of you during your refusal to work. 2nd Thessalonians 3:10 reads, "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.'" This verse is set in the context of 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15, which warns believers against idleness and laziness. The focus of the command is against those who refuse to work rather than those who are unable to do so.

The verses preceding the instruction to those unwilling to work relate a positive example: "You ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate" (2 Thessalonians 3:7–9). Paul and his companions did not come to the people of Thessalonica to take food or money from them but to share Christ with them. They were willing to work a side job to provide for their food.

In contrast, if any Christian worker came to a church and refused to work, Paul says not to offer him food. This instruction also had application to people within their congregation. Verses 11–12 note, "We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat." This is the Christian and Jewish work ethic. Believers are to be known for working hard, not for a lazy attitude. Those same principles and ethics should apply in all work places to all peoples whether you are religious or not and it should particularly apply to PERS workers and state/local government workers when all Oregonians taxes go into paying their salaries and/or retirements. Please vote NO on SB-916. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chad Kernutt
Albany, Oregon
IN GOD WE TRUST