

Submitter:

Nicole Chaisson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB916

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bill that would permit union members on strike to collect unemployment benefits. While I support workers' rights to negotiate fair wages and conditions, this legislation undermines the purpose of unemployment insurance, which is designed to assist those involuntarily out of work—not those who choose to strike as part of a labor strategy.

Allowing strikers to access these funds shifts the financial burden onto taxpayers and employers who are not party to the dispute, effectively subsidizing union actions. This could also incentivize prolonged strikes, disrupting businesses and communities while straining state resources. The unemployment system should remain a safety net for those who lose jobs through no fault of their own, not a tool for leveraging labor negotiations.

I urge you to consider the broader economic implications and reject this bill. Thank you for your attention to this matter.