

Submitter: Matthew Chaisson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

As a proud retired union member, I'm writing to oppose the bill that would allow striking workers like me to file for unemployment benefits. I believe in the power of unions to fight for fair pay and conditions, but this proposal goes too far.

Unemployment insurance is meant for folks who lose their jobs through no choice of their own—not for those of us who walk off the job to make a point, no matter how just the cause.

If we start tapping into this fund, it's not just the state picking up the tab—it's our neighbors, small businesses, and even fellow workers who aren't striking. I worry it could make strikes drag on longer than they should, hurting our communities and weakening the unemployment system we all rely on when times get tough. I joined a union to stand up for what's right, not to lean on a safety net that's meant for a different purpose.

Please vote no on this bill and keep unemployment benefits for what they're truly intended. Thank you for listening to this union voice.