

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 916, which proposes that individuals eligible for unemployment insurance benefits should not be disqualified for any week of unemployment resulting from a labor dispute at their place of employment. While I understand the intention behind this bill, I believe it poses significant challenges that could adversely affect both workers and employers.

Firstly, allowing unemployment benefits during labor disputes could undermine the negotiation process between employers and employees. Labor disputes often arise from complex issues that require both parties to engage in meaningful dialogue. If employees know they can receive benefits regardless of the dispute, it may reduce the incentive for both sides to reach a swift and amicable resolution.

Moreover, this bill could place an additional financial burden on the unemployment insurance system. The potential increase in claims during labor disputes could strain resources, leading to higher premiums for employers and potentially jeopardizing the sustainability of the unemployment insurance program for all workers. This could ultimately harm the very individuals the program is designed to protect.

Additionally, the bill might create an imbalance in the employer-employee relationship. Employers may feel pressured to settle disputes more hastily, potentially compromising the quality of workplace conditions and negotiations. A more balanced approach that encourages resolution rather than prolonged disputes would serve the interests of all parties involved.

I urge you to reconsider the implications of SB 916 and seek alternative solutions that better support constructive labor relations without compromising the integrity of the unemployment insurance system. Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.