

Robin Magee RN

February 5, 2025

Testimony in Support of UI for Striking Workers (SB 916)

To the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

I'm a registered nurse in Oregon who is employed through Providence, and engaged in the 5,000 member healthcare strike in early 2025. I can attest to the emotional, physical, mental, and financial struggles and hardships that come with being on strike, especially when the strike is longer in length. As a nurse, taking care of patients and the community is our top priority, but when safe care of ourselves and patients was threatened, we had no other option than to strike when Providence refused to engage in bargaining. For many of us, this was an incredibly hard thing to do, and the employer thought that by keeping us on strike without pay they could weaken our fight. As the cost of living continues to increase, people on strike without pay are at a massive risk for hardship and financial instability. When paired with lost insurance benefits, it only compounds the problem. With even small benefits from the government such as healthcare to ensure that we receive the care that we need while out on the strike lines, it can make a massive difference. Oregon as a state is intuitive and progressive in making change, and time and time again sets standards for the rest of the United States to see and follow. This movement can truly help Oregonians who are in need, and aid fair working and labor practices.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.