

Submitter: Nora RN  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

RE: Support for SB 916

To the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

I am a night shift nurse at Providence Hood River, currently on strike, seeking a contract that would enhance language for a nurse driven staffing plan. While there is a new nurse staffing plan law coming into place, the guidance of a nurse driven staffing plan taking into count patient acuity is important to provide safe and quality care. In our small hospital we lack other resources that bigger hospitals may have for example telemetry techs, IV teams, lift teams, wound care nurses, a pediatric unit, etc. All these extra services can aid the nurse provide higher quality care because everyone can help the patient, but what if one nurse is expected to all these roles? A nurse driven staffing plan would allow nurses in our hospital to cap the amount of patients based on acuity which in turn would result in higher quality care and lessen the risk of harm to the patient. In recent years, I have seen the rise in acuity among our patient population and truly belief that a nurse driven staffing plan is necessary for the safety of our patients and to prevent burn out among our nurses.

Fighting for our concerns without pay has had an impact in my families financial stance. I've had to withhold my child from preschool due to the lack of income. My mom is unable to work due to taking care of my uncle who has cancer and I've prioritized helping her financially. Being able to have unemployment benefits while on strike would help not only my family, but many other of my colleagues whom I know are struggling financially while trying to make historic changes in the Providence system for us, patients, and future generations of nurses to come. Your support for unemployment benefits for individuals on strike would be truly appreciated from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you for your time,  
Nora