

Oregon Nurse in Clackamas

February 5, 2025

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

To the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

In the case of the current Providence strike that has gone on for 27+ days, our only source of financial relief are loans and the hardship fund. Both of those options are helpful especially considering that the hardship fund consists of our monthly dues. However, those dues can be utilized for other means of support rather than using our own money to fund a necessary strike. Additionally, unemployment validates our movement of a labor stoppage. It makes a statement that proves to onlookers that we are willing to limit our income to inspire change. It should remind our employers that a strike is less about finances, but instead it is a powerful movement that aims to improve standards of care. Financial difficulty can make it difficult for people to continue to remain on the picket line and therefore undermine the power of our message. We want all union members to have financial freedom to participate in change especially regarding their own employment contract. It would benefit the working class to have government support in our movement by enacting a law for unemployment insurance for striking workers.

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

—Oregon Nurse in Clackamas