

Submitter: Savanna 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 an ICU nurse in the Providence Health System. We are currently on strike to fight for safe care for our patients and communities. During this strike we are seeking contracts with our employer that guarantee fair patient ratios, competitive pay, and fair benefits. While presently on strike, we are without income. We as union members and caregivers within our community make great sacrifice during these strikes to support the overall good of our community and healthcare system in Oregon. At present, my employer has been slow to make meaningful improvements on their proposed contracts, and we as nurses need to remain on strike to fight until we get what our patients deserve. This becomes exponentially difficult for nurses as time goes on in a strike and many consider returning to work before the strike is over to avoid financial ruin, unfortunately a premature return to work then takes away some of our bargaining power and precludes our ability to maximize community safety and benefit in these contracts that we fight for. I hope that you will support this bill so that union members throughout Oregon are able to more successfully and safely fight for change and improve our communities without risking personal harm to do so.

Thank you for accepting my testimony,
Savanna RN