

Submitter: Rocky Har

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

Honorable Chair Senator Kathleen Taylor,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 916 for the following reasons:

- My understanding is that UI is for those who find themselves involuntarily out of work (not on strike)
- It seems that the bill would tip the scales in the negotiations in favor of union bargaining team, as opposed to simply and modestly balancing the playing field.
- It does not make sense to be incentivizing workers to strike or push for more concessions at a cost to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund
- The estimate of the relatively small increase of unemployment insurance payouts of \$5.3 million during the 2025-27 biennium is not a good reason to proceed
- I know that school districts are currently on tight budgets and many facing possible strikes would be hurt by these payouts.

Thus, I am encouraging a no vote until much more thought goes into the notion of unemployment payments for striking workers.

Thank you for your consideration.