

Submitter: Naz 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,

Hello, I have been a nurse for 14 years. With the rise of hospitals becoming mega corporations, comes the inevitable consequence of a money first ideology.

As a nurse my priorities are patient safety and nurse retention. We have now gone on strike twice against Providence. I am a single Mother to two children. When I say this has been financially difficult, please believe me. I personally know 4 people who had to cross the picket and go to work - not because they didn't agree with the decision to strike but because the financial burden was too heavy. I also have friends who have spouses who also work for providence, so they have lost two incomes! They are out there picketing almost daily. I have had to borrow money and really cut back on what I spend on. Providence is using our financial insecurity in order to try and lure nurses who are torn between what they believe in, are fighting for and whether it will be financially crippling to stand by their principles. I do believe this is a form of financial abuse and intimidation. If we were able to claim unemployment, this would then make our employer more open to 1) avoiding a strike all together and 2) actually coming to the table and bargaining in good faith.

Please consider our plea for obtaining unemployment during a strike. This will greatly lessen many of our fears and give us and our families the protections we need so that we can fight for you, our community.

Thank you.

Best wishes,
Naz RN