

Submitter: Heidi Hinshaw
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916
State Representatives:

Thank you for considering my testimony. I support SB 916 and HB 3434, which would repeal the law blocking unemployment benefits to workers currently on strike.

I support this policy because as a worker I know that striking is almost always a last resort, and that workers like me are fighting for better wages, benefits, and safety in the workplace. Unemployment insurance is a social safety net that should be available to workers in their time of need.

Employers and workers are not on the same playing field - employers are paid throughout a strike and can often starve workers like myself out. This tactic is used to have us accept sub-par agreements, and extend strikes. SB 916 and HB 3434 have the power to change that.

Workers should not be forced into poverty, debt, or other perilous situations by exercising their legal right to strike. If an employer can take away my health care while striking, then I should also be able to get unemployment benefits – to help pay for COBRA costs, feeding my family, and other vital expenses.

I ask you to strongly consider supporting SB 916 and HB 3434 for workers like me and my neighbors.