

Submitter: Jason Herring  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

The proposed legislation has a previously un referenced significant impact. It will prevent labor strikes from happening. By providing UI insurance as an option for striking workers, employers and unions will still be able to negotiate mutually beneficial, agreements, and contracts, but it will prevent employers from creating economic hardship among workers to punish them for not agreeing to unfair or bad employer bargaining proposals. In short, it will force employers and unions to work together to find agreements and avoid strikes.

This is not a subsidy of unions by the state, it is a recognition that the playing field is unlevelled. This legislation helps level the playing field and by its nature forces the parties to attempt to avoid labor strikes. Employers will be motivated to avoid labor strikes because they can no longer economically and in some cases irreparably harm employees in retaliation for striking. Unions will be motivated to avoid labor strikes because the UI compensation offered will generally be far less than the actual wages employees otherwise would've earned.

There have been some concerns over public sector unions and this legislation, however, these concerns can be addressed through a variety of other mechanisms, including mandatory arbitration of contract disputes for state employees in unions.

This legislation is prudent, reasonable, cost-effective, and when you put all of the bluster and political name-calling aside, is a reasoned and reasonable approach to help prevent labor strikes in the State of Oregon.

With the chaos in Washington DC, states like Oregon are looking for homegrown ways to address, problems and concerns, create systems of fairness, and help citizens find level playing fields in both business and labor. This legislation does exactly that. If passed, Oregon would join several other states who also allow UI insurance compensation for striking workers.

I strongly urge a guess about on this legislation. It is what is best for Oregon, best for business, best for labor unions, and provides stability by creating a level playing field and the net effect, seldom discussed, is that this legislation would prevent labor strikes from occurring, or if a strike is active, would shorten the duration of the strike. Labor unions don't ever want to strike. It as a tactic of last resort. When a labor union strikes, employers attempt to economically harm their own employees in response. This legislation would create a level playing field and prevent labor strikes from

occurring, and because of the changes to UI compensation, in this legislation, the parties would be forced to talk and work their issues out to avoid the nuclear option of striking and economic harm.

It is good for business, good for people, good for workers, good for Oregon. Vote yes on unemployment insurance compensation for striking workers.