

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

I am personally scared that our college administration will force our Union into a strike. They have given themselves enormous pay raises and are now telling us they don't have money to pay our classified staff a livable wage. That our faculty don't warrant pay raises that equate to what other faculty make at community colleges around the state. That our college is pushing us into a position where a strike is the only way to get anywhere near our demands. This bill would give our bargaining unit the financial backing to enter a strike. Please pass this bill.

I strongly support Senate Bill 916 because it will end the exclusion of Unemployment Insurance benefits for workers when they are on strike.

Workers don't go on strike lightly. By the time a strike happens, employees have often spent weeks, months, or even years negotiating in good faith. Many continue working under expired contracts because they believe in their work and need to pay their bills. SB 916 is a simple, fair policy that will prevent striking workers from falling into financial crisis.

Employers have the power to strip healthcare benefits from striking workers, leaving them with impossible choices. UI is a partial wage replacement, not a full paycheck, but it will allow workers to stay in their homes, keep their lights on, and avoid financial ruin.

This policy has minimal costs to the UI system and to employers, but it would make a world of difference to working families. Passing SB 916 ensures workers can bargain fairly without being starved into accepting bad deals.

Oregon should stand up for working people by passing this bill.