

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

I urge lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 916 to support striking workers in Oregon.

Thankfully, I have never had to strike. However, having it as an option on the negotiating table is so important. I don't live hand to mouth anymore, but there is no doubt that striking is a HUGE financial hardship for workers. Our ability to rightfully claim UEI benefits as the employers bring about the rare situations warranting a strike and have the power to make conditions better & safer, is important, and money we earned.

Workers strike only after every other option has been exhausted. In many cases, they continue working under expired contracts for months or years, making sacrifices because they care about their jobs. SB 916 is a simple, fair measure to ensure that when workers must strike, they don't face total financial devastation.

Employers often use healthcare benefits as a weapon in labor disputes. Cutting off healthcare during a strike puts workers and their families in an impossible situation. Unemployment benefits are a reasonable safeguard that will prevent workers from falling into crisis while they stand up for fair wages and conditions.

This bill is low-cost, does not significantly impact employers, and would result in shorter strikes and fairer contracts. Oregon should pass SB 916 and support its workers.