

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

" am on the board of directors at Strike For Our Rights, a nonprofit that provides strike assistance grants to striking workers.

Over the past 3 years we have seen our applications for strike assistance grow tenfold. As the Labor Action Tracker based out of Cornell University shows, we are seeing a record number of labor strikes, but as our application process shows, these are not just numbers.

These are people. They are single parents. They have newborns. They have car payments. They have mortgages and rent. They have water and electricity bills, just like you and I, that do not pause because they are on strike.

Every single application for strike assistance we have received since our founding has stated that the funds they need will be used for either food, electricity bills, or housing. Some are incredibly humble and specific; asking only for the exact amount of an electricity bill. Some ask for an entire rent payment, but with the caveat of "anything will help."

Last year, we had to cap our grants at \$100. This was a tough decision because we know that is not enough. But the number of applications is so long and former recipients turned volunteers gave us the feedback that when they struck they would have rather received less and spread the generosity to their fellow striking coworkers.

We know, based on the unapologetic testimony of WGA and SAG executives, that rather than bargain in good faith, greedy employers would rather destroy their workers' lives: push them into unconscionably debt or foreclosure. Providing unemployment insurance to striking workers is the only way to level the playing field and let's be honest: it still doesn't level it entirely.

I urge you to support these workers who have the courage to put themselves and their families at serious financial risk for the sake of doing the right thing. "