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

I and many other young people have found ourselves unable to afford housing, food, and other basic necessities - all while the companies that employ us enjoy record profits. We are joining and forming unions in ever-greater numbers to attempt to stop the bleed and secure a livable future for ourselves and our families. We don't seek charity, and we don't seek deliverance; we know that we can only secure that on our own. All we ask is that the unemployment insurance we pay for can be made useful to us when we make the difficult decision to strike.

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

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.