

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

I'm an apprentice electrician with IBEW Local 48. I'm here in support of SB 916.

While my local hasn't been on strike in recent years, we have major contractor negotiations coming up and the possibility is always there. This bill would ensure that if we're ever forced to strike for fair wages, benefits, or safety, we won't be financially punished just for standing up for ourselves.

SB 916 gives working people a fair chance to negotiate without the fear of losing everything. It's about protecting Oregon workers now and in the future.

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.