

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

Most employers do everything possible to undermine unions by using illegal tactics such as forcing workers to attend anti-worker meetings and refusing to bargain in good faith with employees who organize. This is especially true with large monopolies such as Amazon and Starbucks. The passage of SB 916 will somewhat level the playing field so that employees can have a fair chance of achieving fair wages and better working conditions.

I support Senate Bill 916 because it will give striking workers a fair shot at bargaining for the wages and conditions they deserve.

A strike is never the first choice for workers. Before a strike happens, there have been extensive negotiations, often stretching across years. Workers do everything they can to avoid striking because they know it will mean financial hardship.

But when employers refuse to budge, workers are often forced into an impossible situation. Many companies even cut off healthcare benefits during a strike to pressure employees into accepting unfair deals. If employers have the right to take away healthcare, then workers should have the right to access unemployment benefits.

UI is not a handout—it's a partial wage replacement that helps workers avoid total financial collapse. SB 916 has an extremely low cost to the UI fund and a low impact on employers. What it does do is ensure fairer negotiations and prevent unnecessary suffering.

Oregon should pass SB 916 and stand with working people.