

Submitter: Nick Potter
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.

Senate Bills 608 and 611 have ensured that landlords in Oregon are protected more than workers in Oregon. Workers are playing catch up while living under crippling high rent prices; many state workers are living with housing insecurity, and relying on SNAP/ERDC/MEDICAID to make ends meet. Meanwhile, large entities battle their workers by stripping their healthcare and not showing up to the bargaining table, ready. Please stand up and commit to protecting workers as equally as you've protected landlords.

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.