

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

I am strongly opposed to this measure. First, unemployment insurance is intended to cover people who have lost wages through no fault of their own. Engaging in a strike is an intentional act -- you are affirmatively withholding labor. Second, public entities are funded in large part through taxes; wage increases, the most common reason for a strike, are not unreasonably withheld due to profit seeking behavior on the part of the employer but due to a lack of public funds. Using public funds to encourage employees to remain on strike to extract MORE public funds is a perverse incentive, and one that our struggling economy cannot reasonably bear. The cost of living is skyrocketing (and I understand those who may strike would agree), and the end result of this will be greater harm to more Oregonians. I have worked in both the public sector and the private sector, in represented and non-represented roles, and there are tradeoffs inherent to each permutation of employment.

If you pass this measure, the result will be longer strikes, and worse provision of public services at greater cost to every Oregonian.