

Submitter: Julie Blackman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

I strongly oppose providing unemployment benefits to those participating in a strike. While I am in general a strong supporter of unions and unionization it is not the responsibility of the public purse to, in effect, take sides in a labor dispute by supporting workers against employers.

This is particularly a concern in the case of public sector strikes, when the public would actually be paying state, county or municipal employees NOT to do their jobs during a negotiation that could lead to higher costs for the public. There is no logic to doing so and no public benefit.

The State of Oregon cannot afford to take on yet another feel-good financial obligation at this time so even if I supported this measure in theory I would oppose its approval at this time.