

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

I want to express my strong support for the right of workers to strike as a fundamental part of collective bargaining. Strikes are a critical tool that allow workers to advocate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

However, I respectfully oppose the use of unemployment benefits, funded by taxpayers, to support workers who are on strike. Unemployment insurance is meant to provide assistance to those who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. A strike, while an important labor action, is a voluntary decision to leave work temporarily in pursuit of a negotiated outcome.

Using public funds to support striking workers crosses a line between honoring labor rights and asking taxpayers to underwrite labor disputes. This sets a concerning precedent and could place additional strain on an already burdened unemployment system.

I encourage policies that protect workers and ensure fair negotiations, but I do not believe unemployment benefits should be extended to those who are voluntarily withholding their labor.

Brea Ariola