



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

6/4/2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 916 B

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I am voting Yes today on SB 916 B. Due to time constraints on the Floor, there were a number of claims made by oppositional speakers that I did not have time to address directly, and I would like to address these claims here in this vote explanation:

Regarding concerns about a lack of reporting requirements.

OED has said on the record they are happy to report to the legislature on the impact of this policy at any time at our request, which I am committed to asking of them once this policy goes into effect.

Regarding concerns about an increase in taxes on businesses.

OED has said repeatedly on the record that costs will not be socialized across businesses. This forecasting comes from their team of actuaries and economists, whose entire job is to understand potential impacts to the UI Trust Fund and the economy at large. Only employers with unionized workers who actually utilize UI benefits stand to have their tax rate go up and that may not even be the case.

Regarding the claim that Oregon's UI tax schedule is one of the highest in the nation.

OED has confirmed that Oregon has the lowest maximum tax schedule rate for our UI that is allowed by federal law.

Regarding the purpose of Unemployment Insurance as a program.

The underlying purpose of the UI system is to ensure that workers are not forced into jobs that are unsuitable or unsafe. Ask any worker – striking is not a true choice. It is something they feel like they've been forced into - with no other choice available.

Regarding schools being forced to negotiate backpay.

This policy does not mandate workers to utilize UI. If they choose to utilize the system and they are eligible - they may receive UI under this policy. I also want to clarify, there is no teacher contract that I know of that pre-negotiates teacher salary during a strike. Finally I want to clarify that back salary is a negotiating point that must be agreed upon between the workers and the employer. SB 916 does not change that. Backpay is not paid out in the moment – but rather after it is negotiated, after the tentative agreement is voted on, and when teachers are back at work.

Thank you for considering these counterpoints, and for your administration of the vote today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dacia Grayber', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

State Representative Dacia Grayber