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Governor Kotek Signs Controversial Bill Expanding Benefits to Striking Workers

Just One Day Earlier, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont (D) Vetoed Similar Legislation

SALEM, Ore. – Yesterday, **Governor Tina Kotek** signed [Senate Bill 916](#) into law, expanding unemployment benefits to striking public and private employees—a move **Senate Republican Leader Daniel Bonham (R-The Dalles)** calls a giveaway to labor unions who bankroll Democrat campaigns at the expense of tax-paying Oregonians and students already struggling under Oregon’s public school system.

“I’ve talked with parents whose kids can’t read at grade level. Every day a strike drags on, students miss out on valuable classroom time they’ll never get back. SB 916 sends the message that special interests come before student success. That’s not a message I’m willing to support.

I’ve also talked with workers who were laid off and had to wait weeks for their benefits. Now we’re telling those same families that their tax dollars will go toward unemployment checks for people who still have jobs? That’s not the Oregon I believe in. It stretches that safety net in a way it was never meant to be used.

These policies might win headlines today, but they’ll cost us dearly tomorrow.”

Just one day before Governor Kotek signed SB 916, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont (D) [vetoed](#) a similar bill in his state. He called the idea “too far,” saying, “I’m pro-jobs, and I want to watch out for any bill that I think discourages jobs in our state.” Governor Kotek could have followed that example, but instead, she chose to reward her most loyal donors.

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