Resolution in Opposition to the Appointments of Sessions, DeVos, Puzder, Price and Pruitt

Whereas, opposition to the new administration’s nominees for important cabinet positions such as Attorney General, Secretaries of Education, of Health and Human Services, of Labor, and of the Environmental Protection Agency is growing; and

Whereas, Attorney General nominee Jeff Sessions is wholly unqualified to be our nation’s top law enforcement official, as demonstrated by his long and troubling record in opposition to civil and human rights; and

Whereas, the Attorney General has the responsibility to protect the civil and human rights of all races, colors and genders; and Senator Sessions presents an extreme danger to the equality, diversity and inclusiveness that is the very bedrock of our nation; and

Whereas, Education Department nominee Betsy DeVos is a billionaire with no experience in public education who is committed to subsidizing private and religious education at the expense of public education and a pro-voucher defender of charter schools; and

Whereas, DeVos’s financial entanglements with a student loan collection agency, her resistance to protecting students from sexual assault and gun violence and to ensuring the rights of immigrants and students with disabilities should disqualify her for this important position; and

Whereas, the nomination of Andrew Puzder for Secretary of Labor is an anathema given his record of opposition to the minimum wage, anti-worker activities and the history of harassment in his operations; and

Whereas, Puzder is uniquely unqualified for the job where he would be charged with enforcing health and safety, overtime and other labor laws since, as CEO of CKE Restaurants, the parent company of Hardee’s and Carl’s Jr., he has made his considerable fortune from violating these very same laws; and

Whereas, EPA nominee Scott Pruitt has taken campaign contributions from energy companies and then sued the Environmental Protection Agency on their behalf to dismantle the Clean Power Plan and block the Clean Water Rule; and
Whereas, Pruitt has called the risks from climate change “speculative guess work;” and

Whereas, Price has a long record of attempts to replace the Affordable Care Act, of requiring some Medicaid recipients to work as a condition of their benefits and not guaranteeing that young adults can stay on their parents’ health plans until age 26; therefore be it

Resolved, that UUP joins with other groups in opposing the confirmation of each of these nominees, each of whom would be a fox guarding the henhouse; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP urges each of its members to immediately reach out – by phone, fax and letter – to both Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (who has opposed each nominee) and Senator Chuck Schumer to voice their opposition to their appointments; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP urges each member to reach out to other Senators who have a vote on these appointments:

Susan Collins (ME) 207-622-8414 and 202-224-2523
Lamar Alexander (TN) 615-736-5129 and 202-224-4944
Lisa Murkowski (AK) 907-586-7277 and 202-224-6665
Johnny Isakson (GA) 770-661-0999 and 202-224-3643
Orrin Hatch (UT) 801-524-4380 and 202-224-5251
Richard Burr (NC) 336-631-5125, 202-224-3154, 910-251-1058, or 828-350-2437
Michael Enzi (WY) 202-224-3424
Dr. Bill Cassidy (LA) 202-224-5824
Pat Roberts (KS) 202-224-4774
Tim Scott (SC) 202-224-6121
Rand Paul (KY) 202-224-4343