



*A Future that
HEALS*

UUP 2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Healthcare, Education, Access, Leadership, Sustainability

United University Professions (UUP), with our 37,000 active members and 6,000 retirees across New York, are committed to advocating for a cleaner, fairer, more just community for all New Yorkers. We are a solutions-driven union that is proposing an ambitious agenda for 2021-22, focused on the access and delivery of health care for all, raising revenue through a just and progressive tax system, and making SUNY a dynamic vehicle for economic, social, and environmental change. We must rise to meet the many challenges of 2021 and beyond.

UUP members work at....

COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGES



ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS



TECH. CAMPUSES



UNIVERSITY CENTERS



United University Professions
President Frederick E. Kowal, Ph.D
www.uupinfo.org

Contact Daniel Brown, Political Director - dbrown@uupmail.org, about UUP's legislative agenda



As the largest higher education union in the U.S., UUP calls on congressional leaders to put partisanship aside to work together, and work with President Biden, to invest in our future. The decisions in the coming months will determine the fate of our nation's health, our economy, our environment, and our democracy.

UUP welcomes a new executive to our federal government and new majority in the Senate and House of Representatives that understands the weight of this moment in history. As our nation struggles with internal division, battles a global pandemic, and seeks to generate a strong economy for all, it is the federal government that must lead the way.

Healthcare

- **UUP supports the creation of a public option under the Affordable Care Act.**
 - **UUP supports the extension and expansion of funding for Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments and safety net hospital funding.**
 - **UUP urges the creation of a Public Healthcare Professional Recruitment & Retention Initiative.** There are national shortages of health care professionals, including respiratory therapists, radiology technologists, dosimetry technicians, medical technologists, nurses and others, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for public hospitals to recruit these highly skilled workers. Federal funding is needed to create programs aimed at recruiting students to these fields, with financial support while they are in school and student loan repayment once they graduate.
 - **UUP urges the Senate and House of Representatives to pass legislation to forgive the CARES Acts loans to public hospitals.** UUP members and SUNY hospitals continue to face significant suffering due to the coronavirus pandemic: colleagues lost to COVID-19, emotional and physical trauma from the scale of this crisis, and financial losses to already struggling public hospitals. SUNY hospitals have been forced to take on hundreds of millions of dollars in loans through the CARES Act to make up for financial losses as a result of pausing elective surgeries and caring for COVID-19 patients. To allow SUNY hospitals to continue to
- provide critical public healthcare to New York's most vulnerable citizens, UUP requests all CARES Act loans be converted to grants.
- **UUP proposes a new federal Infectious Disease Medical Coverage Program, aimed at addressing the costs incurred by the healthcare system, to increase treatment rates and minimize spread of infectious disease through the population.** To address the current pandemic, as well as future outbreaks of infectious diseases, UUP calls upon the Federal Government to initiate a universal Infectious Disease Program to ensure diagnostics and treatment of infectious diseases for all residents of the United States. This program would cover medical costs incurred by those afflicted by COVID-19 and future pandemic diseases. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical in curbing infectious disease outbreaks and spread through the population. Knowledge that these costs are fully covered will dramatically enhance individuals seeking early-stage diagnosis and treatment.



Fiscal

- **UUP urges Congress to reverse Trump tax cuts on corporations, capital gains and millionaires.**
- **UUP calls for immediate aid to states and local governments and additional direct payments to public colleges and hospitals to compensate for pandemic costs.** New York needs federal funding to support our public colleges, universities, and academic medical centers, which have all taken on immense costs while responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Already cash-strapped campuses and hospitals are facing deeper cuts and need essential funding to maintain long-term viability. Our communities and our state rely on these institutions, and it would be irresponsible to leave them without sufficient funding.



- **UUP supports HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.** This bill imposes a fee on the carbon content of fuels, including crude oil, natural gas, coal, or any other product derived from those fuels that will be used so as to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- **UUP urges Congress to dedicate funding for the creation of job training, certificate and degree programs in clean energy at public higher education institutions such as SUNY.** SUNY and other public higher education institutions are uniquely positioned to address climate crisis research and mitigation, as well as train the next generation of green energy professionals.
- **UUP calls for passage of the Federal Green New Deal.** New York passed historic legislation and set important goals with the CLCPA, but federal action will be needed to make those goals a reality. Passage of the federal Green New Deal will be an important step in creating a greener future for all.

Climate Crisis

- **UUP supports President Biden's clean energy plan,** which sets goals for the U.S. to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and establishes a \$2 trillion investment over four years to boost reliance on clean energy and climate sustainable practices. The "Biden Plan to Build a Modern, Sustainable Infrastructure and Equitable Clean Energy Future" includes plans to upgrade four million buildings and two million homes over four years. SUNY must be at the forefront of this energy transformation by renovating and modernizing our campus buildings to meet the energy goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) here in New York and reduce the system's carbon footprint and provide cost savings to our institutions.





Student Debt

UUP proposes a new Federal Student Debt Relief Program, aimed at addressing the devastating impact of student loan debt on graduates' credit scores. Carrying large amounts of student loan debt can drastically impact graduates' credit scores and ability to obtain loans needed to progress with life and career. High compounding interest rates on their student loans makes it harder for students to pay back their debt. UUP's proposal would require the federal government to buy public and private loans and hold students' debt. This would allow the government to suspend all (or most) interest (zero or tied to the prime rate) and declare these debts as non-commercial debt. In this model, debt amounts would not be reported to crediting agencies. In lieu of monthly payments, the government could establish a yearly deduction from tax returns for 1/25th of the amount of the loan each year, until the principle is paid off. As a result, graduates would have no reported student loan totals, no monthly loan payments, and hence no commercial debt from their student loans. Collections of these funds through the IRS would provide replacement funds that could be funneled back into the student loan program.

Social Justice

- **UUP supports expansion of the Voting Rights Act.**
- **UUP supports comprehensive immigration legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship for 11 million migrants living in the U.S. illegally, including a pathway to citizenship for people commonly known as DREAMers, who are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.**



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