



United Professions AFT Vermont, AFL-CIO

PO Box 948, Burlington, VT 05402 • 308 Pine Street, Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 658-3113 • www.upvaft.org

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: ___ Susan Bartlett _____

PARTY AFFILIATION: _____ Democratic _____

EMAIL: ___ senatorbartlett@comcast.net _____ TELEPHONE: ___ 802-888-5591 _____

WILL YOU ALLOW VIDEO TO BE RECORDED FOR OUR MEMBERS? YES _____ yes NO

Please return questionnaire to United Professions AFT Vermont by May 28th. You may fax it to 802-658-7673 or email it to bonniem@upvaft.org. Thank you!



United Professions AFT Vermont, AFL-CIO

PO Box 948, Burlington, VT 05402 • 308 Pine Street, Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 658-3113 • www.upvaft.org

- 1) The fact that healthcare facilities continue to require nurses and other health professionals to work long, unexpected hours of overtime is one of the reasons behind the current shortage of nurses and other health workers. The practice also takes its toll on the quality of patient care.

A 2004 study revealed that nurses generally worked longer than scheduled and that approximately 40 percent of the work shifts they logged exceeded 12 hours. The risk of making an error significantly increased when work shifts were longer than 12 hours, when nurses worked overtime, or when they worked more than 40 hours per week.

We support legislation banning mandatory overtime for nurses.

Do you support the ban on mandatory overtime?

YES NO

Comments _____ I am certain that when overtime is necessary, like a storm keeps staff away from work the staff that is at work will continue to provide coverage.

- 2) State support for Higher Education has withered over the last 20 years. As a consequence, our system of public higher education is among the most expensive systems in the country. At the same time, many of the lawmakers who perpetuate and even worsen the situation in each budget cycle condemn our systems for being tuition-driven. The path we are on is unsustainable and will result in the dismantling of public higher education in Vermont if it is not corrected. We believe that higher education should be funded "all or in substantial part" by state appropriation as the law requires.

Will you commit to increasing the state appropriation to the VSC and UVM by 10% in each year of your first term? YES _____ NO

COMMENTS _____ The state continues to face multi-million dollars deficits and it is not realistic to assume that any group will get a 10% increase. The fundamental issues surrounding education pre-K through college is that no state can afford to support an entire system. States either fund pre-K to 12 well or higher education. The federal government needs to get serious about having our higher education be affordable to all students who want the benefit of higher education and begin to provide significant financial assistance to higher education.

- 3) UP has endorsed the Healthcare is a Human Right campaign and supports S.88 and these principles:
- A. Every person is entitled to comprehensive, quality healthcare.
 - B. Systemic barriers must not prevent people from accessing necessary healthcare.
 - C. The cost of financing the healthcare system must be shared equitably.
 - D. The healthcare system must be transparent in design, efficient in operation and accountable to the people it serves.

E. As a human right, the healthcare system that satisfies these principles is the responsibility of the government to ensure.



United Professions AFT Vermont, AFL-CIO

PO Box 948, Burlington, VT 05402 • 308 Pine Street, Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 658-3113 • www.upvaft.org

Do you support S.88?

YES NO

COMMENTS As the chair of senate appropriations we worked with the health and welfare committee to make sure the structure and funding were there for the studies that will show us how to build a universal health care system for all Vermonters.

Do you support the goal of universal healthcare for all Vermonters?

YES NO

COMMENTS There is the philosophical side of universal healthcare for all Vermonters, but there is the very practical side of the money involved. When the money we spend on health care actually goes to health care and not unnecessary paper, there will be millions of dollars freed up in our economy that can go to things like education, cleaning up our environment and other priorities.

Do you support a single-payer healthcare system for all Vermonters?

YES NO

Comments Obviously yes we need affordable health care when we need it, where we need it and at a cost we can afford I am glad to have worked on S88 to move single payer along the road to becoming a reality here in Vermont

- 4) There are 10,000 women across Vermont paid by the state to educate our youngest children. They have no say over crucial issues such as continuing education, work rules and the subsidy rate. Right now they are organizing a union so they can have a voice.

Will you sign legislation enabling Early Childhood Educators to form a union? YES NO

COMMENTS This will be a very important step in recognizing the value and importance of these workers and the valuable services they provide to young children and families.
