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**United Professions AFT Vermont, AFL-CIO**

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

(802) 658-3113 • [www.upvaft.org](http://www.upvaft.org)

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## GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: Brian Dubie

PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

EMAIL: [cbliss@briandubie.com](mailto:cbliss@briandubie.com) TELEPHONE: 802-598-3540

WILL YOU ALLOW VIDEO TO BE RECORDED FOR OUR MEMBERS? 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](mailto:bonniem@upvaft.org). Thank you!



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- 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 -- As a card-carrying member of a labor union representing commercial airline pilots, I understand the mission-critical importance of rest and good physical condition in the health care professions. Whether we are caring for patients in an ICU or 150 passengers on an airplane, we are responsible for the human lives entrusted to us. I would favor a comprehensive, integrated plan that would limit nurse overtime hours and at the same time work to recruit and train more people into the nursing profession. I am a strong supporter of our in-state nursing education programs. My mother was an operating room nurse in Vermont. My sister was trained and practiced as a nurse here. I have cousins who are nurses in Vermont. I know how much nurses give of themselves on the job every day. I know that nurses are highly skilled and highly educated professionals who deserve recognition and fair compensation. My goal would be to create an overall economic climate in our state that would result in increased staffing levels at our hospitals and clinics.

- 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 New England Economic Partnership's spring 2010 forecast, released on May 20, 2010, estimates that Vermont has lost 13,800 jobs since the start of the recession. Even as the economy shows early signs of recovery, most experts agree that it will take 3 years to recoup job losses and to restore state revenues to 2006 levels. With a \$122 million deficit projected for 2011, Vermont will need to remain focused on developing pro-jobs, pro-growth tax policies and strict

fiscal discipline. That being said, it would be my goal to increase funding to VSC and UVM. Doing so would help educate and train the professionals who will drive our economic recovery.

- 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.



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Do you support S.88? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS Vermont leads the nation in state-led health care reform. National surveys have rated it the healthiest state in America for three years in a row. I support the provisions of S.88 that advance the landmark program Blueprint for Health, passed in 2006. I support S.88's creation of a one-year primary care workforce development committee to address Vermont's shortage of health care workers. Given the strength of our current programs, our national leadership in health care innovation and our new obligations under President Obama's new federal health care law, I question the timing of S.88's "design options" study and its effort to divert us from our current course. Moreover, the new federal law prevents Vermont from implementing any new reforms before 2017. I oppose the provisions of S.88 that will effectively restrict access to free prescription samples by needy Vermonters.

Do you support the goal of universal healthcare for all Vermonters? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS I support efforts to make health care more affordable for all Vermonters. I support efforts to improve health and quality of life for each and every Vermonter, from prenatal care through end-of-life care and hospice.

Do you support a single-payer healthcare system for all Vermonters? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

The recently passed federal health care reform law makes no provision for a state to contemplate a single-payer system. Any effort in this direction would go against the policy of a nationwide system of exchanges. It could not be expected to receive assistance of any kind from Medicaid and Medicare or in terms of changes to the ERISA laws that govern interstate employer health plans. I do not support a single-payer health care system at this time.

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 I am a union member. I would have to see the proposal before commenting on it.