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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: \_\_\_\_\_ MATT DUNNE \_\_\_\_\_

PARTY AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DEMOCRATIC \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ MATT@MATTDUNNE.COM \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (802) 478-0858 \_\_\_\_\_

WILL YOU ALLOW VIDEO TO BE RECORDED FOR OUR MEMBERS? YES  X \_\_\_\_\_ 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: I would support a ban on mandatory overtime. I would want to explore how other states have structured such a ban, including addressing emergency coverage situations in ways that would also prevent abuses.

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: I completely agree with the sentiment of this question. Vermont not only sets the highest financial bar for students wanting to attend higher education of any state in the country, but we also have the highest average debt load. However, the budget deficit my administration will inherit next year will be the largest in Vermont's history. I will certainly strive to increase the resources dedicated to the VSC and UVM by 10% per year, but without knowing the fiscal situation in detail for next year I cannot commit to an absolute number. I am interested in exploring a dedicated revenue source



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for higher education and will lay out a plan for bringing the two systems back to strong fiscal health. Higher education is critical to Vermont's economic future in the near term and down the road, and I will be a strong champion for increasing resources to allow us to reach that full potential.

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.

Do you support S.88?

YES  NO

COMMENTS I do support S.88. It is morally and financially imperative that Vermont moves quickly towards a single statewide self insurance program to provide universal coverage where everybody pays, everyone is covered, and we change the way we do reimbursement. S.88 will provide the blueprint for such a plan, and as Governor my administration will move as quickly as possible to implement such a system and lead the nation.

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

YES  NO

COMMENTS Yes, see above.

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

YES  NO

Comments Yes, see above.

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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 Early childhood education is the best investment we can make as state to ensure Vermont's children get the best possible start, which will also reduce special education costs in the future. In order to achieve success, we need to be sure our Early Childhood Educators are treated well and paid a good wage so we can attract the best and brightest.