



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: ___ Doug Racine _____

PARTY AFFILIATION: ___ Democrat _____

EMAIL: ___ amy@dougracine.com _____ TELEPHONE: ___ 802-793-1114 _____

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. Thank you!

- 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 X

Comments: I have supported efforts on the part of nurses to organize so that these issues can be negotiated, and I am sympathetic to the problems that mandatory overtime can create for families.

- 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?

NO X

COMMENTS __ While I support the goal, I cannot commit to a specific amount of increase in our current economy. However, in the long term, I do see the need for stronger state support for higher education. I want to work with both UVM and our state colleges to find ways to address the cost issue – especially the administrative costs, while still maintaining a high quality education and strong workforce.

- 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 X

COMMENTS I was proud to support S.88 and get this legislation through, and as I am writing this answer, I have just found out it will become law.

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

YES X

COMMENTS Absolutely. The principals of the Human Rights campaign were written into S.88, and must be embodied in any design option that is developed for us next year.

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

YES NO

Comments I will support a single-payer system if the results of S.88 show that this type of a system is the best way to achieve the principles outlined above.

- 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 X

COMMENTS I am a strong supporter of early childhood education, and I recognize there needs to be better support – both public and private – for the providers who are caring for our children.