

# HEALTH CARE? WHO CARES?

WHY SHOULD WE IN THE CUNY COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT THE NY HEALTH ACT?

**PLEASE TAKE 2 MINUTES TO FIND OUT AT [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/249459370](https://vimeo.com/249459370)**

## A MESSAGE TO THE CUNY COMMUNITY FROM THE PSC HEALTHCARE REFORM TASK FORCE

Our Task Force, composed of faculty, staff, and students of CUNY, was formed to educate and advocate for guaranteed universal healthcare in New York State. We invite you to join us in this effort. Here's why:

- In no other high-income country do grad students, faculty, and staff have to depend on their university to provide them access to medical care. Why should we have to depend on the university for this basic need?
- Nowhere else do graduate students compete for fellowships so they can afford to treat their diabetes.
- Nowhere else does your type of job determine whether you can afford the cost of delivery of your new baby, let alone get new glasses or treat a toothache.
- Nowhere else does a part-time secretary try desperately to move to full-time status so her husband's medications will be covered.
- Nowhere else does a Human Resources department keep part-time staff under 20 hours per week to avoid providing them with health coverage.

Access to basic medical services should not be a privilege our university, or any other institution, doles out selectively. Nor should a university be limiting such services so it can afford to pay its teachers and support staff.

Our students have more than enough to worry about. They should not have to spend their time researching ways to get an undocumented family member cancer treatment or trying to figure out how to get care for their little brother with hearing loss. These services should be available to everyone, as they are in all other wealthy countries.

We believe passing the New York Health Act, the Gottfried-Rivera legislation to provide universal publicly funded healthcare, would assure every resident of New York access to high quality healthcare without fear of huge bills or burdensome debt. Everybody in, nobody left out. The New York Health Act has the support of a majority of the State Legislature. To see how it benefits every New Yorker and how it would be paid for, see the link that follows below.

The PSC believes that the only solution to the healthcare crisis is a publicly funded single-payer system that covers everyone and includes all forms of care. Like all legislation, NYHA is a work in progress. The union supports the goals of NYHA and is committed to working with the bill sponsors and other unions to answer unresolved questions about the transition to single-payer healthcare. (See Where the PSC Stands on Health Care Reform, April 2020 at <https://bit.ly/3xhKbu1>.)

Let's work together to build support for this progressive reform in our state's healthcare system. We can lighten our load, and that of our university, while assuring all of us access to the care we require and deserve.

For more information and to become involved in building support within CUNY for the New York Health Act, contact us at **[pschealthcaretaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:pschealthcaretaskforce@gmail.com)**.

For more details on the draft legislation go to Campaign for New York Health **<https://www.nyhcampaign.org>**.

