

HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE ARE UNDER ATTACK!

The Trump administration is waging a war on higher education, science, and the right to health care.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Executive Overreach

- Froze federal grants for ideological reasons, throwing research projects into disarray
- Instituted a 15% cap on indirect costs for NIH grant-funded research, stalling life-saving research on diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and cancer
- Ordered the elimination of all DEI programs and language
- Issued an executive order denouncing "gender ideology extremism," erasing recognition of and support for the LGBTQ+ community
- Attacked academic freedom, including deporting legal residents for exercising their right to free speech
- Withheld appropriated funds to blackmail institutions of higher education into compliance
- Ordered investigations of 60 campuses for alleged antisemitism, including 2 state-operated SUNY campuses
- Fired over 1,300 employees at the Department of Education, reducing its workforce by 46%
- Called for the abolition of the Department of Education and the relocation of student loans to the Small Business Administration which is slated to be cut by 46%

Research Funding Spotlight

- NYS is the 2nd leading recipient of NIH grant funding
- NIH grants support 30,000 jobs in NYS
- NYS stands to lose \$850M in NIH grants, impacting 250 institutions
- The SUNY system alone could lose \$40M in NIH funding

NY's Attorney General and our national affiliates, NEA and AFT, are litigating against illegal acts of executive overreach, such as grant freezes. Temporary restraining orders have been issued, but the final outcome is unclear, and researchers have already experienced halted funding, stalled projects, and been forced to lay off lab employees.

Congressional Proposals

Congress is considering a host of changes to student aid and loans during the budget process that will make it much harder to afford higher education. Congressional Republicans have proposed the following:

- Limiting Pell grants and federal student loans to the median cost of attendance, leaving half of all students with unmet financial need
- Eliminating the American opportunity tax credit, lifetime learning credit, income-driven repayment plan, and grad and parent PLUS loans
- Taxing scholarship and fellowship funds



UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE ARE UNDER ATTACK!

The Trump administration is waging a war on higher education, science, and the right to health care.

HEALTHCARE

Executive Overreach

- The Department of Health and Human Services has been cut by 24%, or around 20,000 workers.
- Federal grants that were supposed to run through the end of September were abruptly cut off. In New York, this led to the loss of \$300M for DOH, \$40M for OASAS, and \$27M for OMH.
- These cuts mean layoffs of public health employees and hindered ability to track infectious diseases and improve health disparities.

Congressional Proposals

- Congressional Republicans are considering massive Medicaid cuts to pay for tax cuts to the ultra-rich. The House budget resolution directs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, to reduce spending by a minimum of \$880B over 10 years.

Impact of Medicaid Cuts on NYS

- The Governor's budget anticipated \$58B in federal Medicaid funds for FY2026. Medicaid comprises the largest portion of federal funding in the NYS budget at 63%. Without this federal aid, NY will be forced to make cuts to public goods and services.
- The Governor and Legislature will likely be forced to make mid-year cuts to the State's FY2026 enacted budget. This will further exacerbate the untenable financial situations of our SUNY hospitals and campuses.
- To make up for lost federal revenue, New York will be forced to reduce services. Optional Medicaid benefits could be reduced, such as prescription drugs, vision, and dental. Cuts will negatively impact the roughly 7M New Yorkers who rely on Medicaid and SUNY hospitals who serve them. SUNY Downstate ranks #1 out of 143 hospitals in NYS for Medicaid revenue as a share of net patient revenue.
- Medicaid cuts could also impact Disproportionate Shares Hospital (DSH) funding, which SUNY hospitals rely on as public safety net hospitals.
- Current Medicaid reimbursement rates to providers do not meet the cost of care, and federal cuts to Medicaid will make rate increases highly unlikely.

Knowledge is power. Education is a right. Healthcare is a right. We will fight!



UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS