



2023

## State Legislative Agenda

**This year, Students United is committed to advocating on behalf of policies at the state and federal level that increase affordability, widen access to basic needs, and encourage civic engagement among students.**

*Students United is an independent, non-profit organization funded and operated by students.*



# State Legislative Agenda Overview

## Affordability

**Supporting Minnesota State's biennial budget request:** Students United stands in support of Minnesota State's biennial budget request that will be presented to the state legislature this year. This proposal represents a unique opportunity to address Minnesota's workforce development needs, while taking steps to increase higher education affordability by fully funding a tuition freeze for Minnesota's seven state universities.

**Supporting a Minnesota tax conformity bill:** This summer, President Biden and the U.S. Department of Education announced plans to cancel \$10,000 in student loan debt for borrowers earning \$125,000 or less per year. This decision also included an additional \$10,000 in forgiveness for borrowers who received Pell grants. While this loan forgiveness is not taxable income at the federal level, unfortunately, this relief would be taxed in Minnesota if action is not taken. That is why Students United is in strong support of a tax package that includes conformity to the federal tax code.

## Basic Needs

**Supporting efforts to end hunger on college campuses:** Too many students across our seven universities live with the daily burden of food insecurity, but we have the knowledge and ability to overcome this problem. That is why Students United is advocating for resources that will expand efforts to end hunger on college campuses.

**Supporting increased mental health resources:** Across our seven campuses, students have resoundingly called for more resources and access to mental health support. That is why Students United is prioritizing efforts to expand the scope and scale of mental health resources across our system.

**Supporting resources for period equity:** Widespread access to menstrual products is a basic need for our students. That is why Students United is requesting funds for our seven universities to offer menstrual products at no charge for students.

## Civic Engagement

**Empowering students' voices:** During this legislative session, Students United will advocate for policies which improve voter registration efforts on campus, including support for automatic voter registration. We also call upon legislators to increase the ease and efficiency of voting by expanding drop box locations and removing Minnesota's witness requirement on absentee ballots.



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