



Students United

State Legislative Agenda

Did you know?



64%

of Minnesota resident students who are pursuing an undergraduate credential are doing so at a Minnesota State college or university.



3,885

academic programs offered at Minnesota State colleges and universities.

54k+



is the amount of students enrolled at a Minnesota State university.



1967

Students United has been organizing students for 55 years.



2022 Legislative Session

We set our legislative agendas on an annual basis. This year, we're advocating for funding to support student needs. This includes nearly **\$300 million to fix buildings on our campuses** which will improve learning environments and provide updated technology to support student success. We are also advocating for **\$60 million for campus support**, which will include freezing tuition, increasing access to mental health resources, and funding for student basic needs. Finally, we're supporting **Home Line's 2022 Minnesota Renter's Agenda**, which will ban the use of hidden fees and increase renter privacy protections.

Supporting the Minnesota State Capital Investments Program

We support the Minnesota State system's \$292.9 million request for asset preservation and campus-specific capital projects. This funding will be used for nearly 100 campuses (colleges and universities) and will support the most basic needs, such as updating roofs, windows, and exterior walls, and will update mechanical and utility systems to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. This will directly support student success by ensuring students continue to have safe spaces on campus to gather and learn. In summation, this funding will:

- Improve campus teaching and learning environments and improve student outcomes
- Reduce operating expenses and improve learning environments and student outcomes
- Enhance science, technology, engineering, math, allied health, technical, business, and education classrooms and labs
- Streamline student support services to increase student success

Fixing our buildings will provide students with better learning environments and the updated technology needed for students to be more successful once they graduate.

Supporting the Minnesota State Supplemental Budget Request

We support the Minnesota State system's \$60 million request for campus support, freezing tuition, workforce development, mental health resources, and student basic needs.

- \$30 million to support increases in campus expenses resulting from compensation and other cost increases over the biennium
- \$25 million to protect access and affordability by not increasing undergraduate tuition while providing the base funding needed to meet ongoing operating costs
- \$2 million to address the workforce gap through programming serving business and industry
- \$2 million to fund student mental health resources
- \$1 million to fund student basic needs

Renter Protections and Transparency Legislation

Basic needs insecurity has become an increasing problem for college students in recent years. Housing insecurity among college students has historically been under-examined despite being a critical issue for students in Minnesota and across the country. Housing insecurity impacts students' ability to attend class, study, complete coursework, and go to work. We support Home Line's legislation on eviction reform, tenant privacy protections, and increased lease fairness and transparency.

- We support eviction reporting to be prohibited until a court judgment is rendered in favor of the landlord. This will allow renters to solve the situation before it permanently harms their record. Expungement reform would also include pathways for a tenant's record to be cleared if the landlord and renter agree to expungement upon request or if the eviction was ordered three or more years ago. This type of legislation would also be able to provide more discretion for judges to consider the renter's circumstances that caused the eviction case when making a decision.
- Currently, Minnesota is only one of seven states that does not require a landlord to notify a tenant before filing an eviction. Pre-filing notice would be required 14 days before a formal eviction action can be brought to fix the problem, negotiate an agreement with the landlord, or quit the lease and vacate the unit making an eviction filing unnecessary. Information on how renters can seek legal help and apply for emergency assistance will be included in this pre-filing notice. This is a win-win, as landlords won't need to spend money filing court claims and tenants won't experience a detrimental mark on their record that may keep them from securing housing in the future.
- An increasing number of landlords are charging fees for non-operational services rather than including these costs in the advertised rent for an apartment – making the financial obligations for renting the space more than what the tenant originally expected. We believe non-refundable fees for non-operational services should be prohibited to ensure renters do not suddenly face unaffordable, concealed charges after signing a lease. This would make administrative costs incorporated in the tenant's rent for complete transparency.



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