



# NNU endorses Sen. Bernie Sanders for President

**Caring, compassion, and community.** These are the values at the heart of registered nursing. This is true at the bedside, as nurses advocate for patients and families—and also beyond the walls of the hospital, as RNs call for environmental, racial, and economic justice in the name of public health. National Nurses United, which represents some 190,000 nurses nationwide, seeks to uphold that positive vision for the health of this country by endorsing Senator Bernie Sanders for president.

## Here are 10 reasons National Nurses United endorses Bernie Sanders:

- 1. 100% in alignment with what matters most to RNs.** On an NNU questionnaire sent to all presidential candidates, Sanders was the only one to score 100 percent in alignment with NNU's values. NNU leadership recommended his endorsement to membership—who overwhelmingly supported Sanders in a poll.
- 2. Building a social movement to heal America.** Sanders echoes nurses' values and the social movements of our time, for healthcare for all, for jobs at living wages, for fighting income inequality, for educational opportunity, for environmental justice and action on the climate crisis, for civil rights, voting rights, and ending the systemic racism in policing and the criminal justice system. His campaign offers an opportunity to unify those movements to build a more humane America.
- 3. Leading the way in Medicare for all.** Too many Americans, even with the Affordable Care Act, remain priced out of access to necessary healthcare. Sanders champions what RNs agree is real reform: an improved, expanded Medicare for all.
- 4. Calling for mandatory, federal nurse-to-patient ratios.** There are no mandatory limits on how many patients can be assigned to an RN in almost all U.S. hospitals, despite study after study showing a direct link between safe RN staffing levels and patient outcomes. California is the only state with such "ratios" laws, won by NNU RNs after years of battling the powerful hospital lobby. Sanders is cosponsoring a federal bill, S. 864, that would mandate ratios for all U.S. hospitals, and it is one of a number of federal and state ratios bills that NNU is pursuing.
- 5. Holding Wall Street accountable.** With a vision of economic justice, Sanders has demanded Wall Street pay its fair share of taxes and introduced the NNU-backed Robin Hood Tax bill, S. 1731, that, through a 0.5 percent tax on stock market speculation, could raise hundreds of billions to pay for healthcare for all, free college tuition, more living-wage jobs at living wages, ending AIDS, real action against the climate crisis, and other basic needs.
- 6. Voicing strong opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).** Sanders also stands out in his outspoken, public opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which—besides posing serious threats to the environment, food safety, and workers' rights—would allow pharmaceutical giants to drive up drug prices, a life-and-death issue for millions.
- 7. Protecting workers.** "Bernie Sanders has a proven track record of uncompromised activism and advocacy for working people," says DeMoro, who cites his strong opposition to right-to-work laws and willingness to veto a national right-to-work bill.
- 8. Opposing the Keystone XL pipeline.** Sanders has vocally opposed and voted against all attempts by Congress to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, an example of activities RNs oppose because they worsen climate change and jeopardize public health.
- 9. Protecting VA nurses.** Sanders is a cosponsor of the VA Employee Fairness Act (S. 1257/H.R. 2193), an NNU-backed bill that would allow VA nurses to collectively bargain for better wages and working conditions like other VA employees already do.
- 10. Taking on systemic racism.** NNU recently released a statement on Black Lives Matter and the health impact of societal racial disparities, urging all presidential candidates to address systemic racism and economic inequality. Sanders has done just that, recently declaring that many of the unarmed African Americans killed by police over this past year probably would not have been "if they were white" and calling for demilitarization of the country's police departments.



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