

UFCW 21 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2019

HEALTH CARE



Ensure Uninterrupted Meal and Rest Breaks

Health care professionals are expected to always be prepared and on top of their game – patients' lives depend on it. Working 10, 12 or even more hours in a row because hospital CEOs didn't schedule well enough is not good for providers or our patients. Hospital workers need uninterrupted breaks to make sure patients receive quality care.

Close the Mandatory Overtime Loophole

It has become the norm for on-call health care professionals to fill in during staff shortages rather than emergency situations. Hospitals need to stop forcing mandatory on-call for non-emergency situations and restrict the use of pre-scheduled on-call. This protection must extend to all health care workers that provide direct patient care.

Protect Patients From Surprise Billing and Medical Debt

When you're facing a health emergency it can be hard to navigate confusing health insurance networks. You just need help, not a fear of crushing medical debt. Due to lack of transparency in hospital billing practices, out-of-network care can result in an unexpected and costly bill long after you've paid your co-pay and received care. Our health care spending should go towards our health care, not to a debt collector or surprise bills.

Properly Fund Public Hospitals

In order to provide the patient care Washington needs, it is critical that our public hospitals are funded adequately. With the federal government's recent multi-million dollar cuts to our rural public district hospitals it is crucial that we work with the legislature to ensure our hospitals have the resources they need to care for our communities.

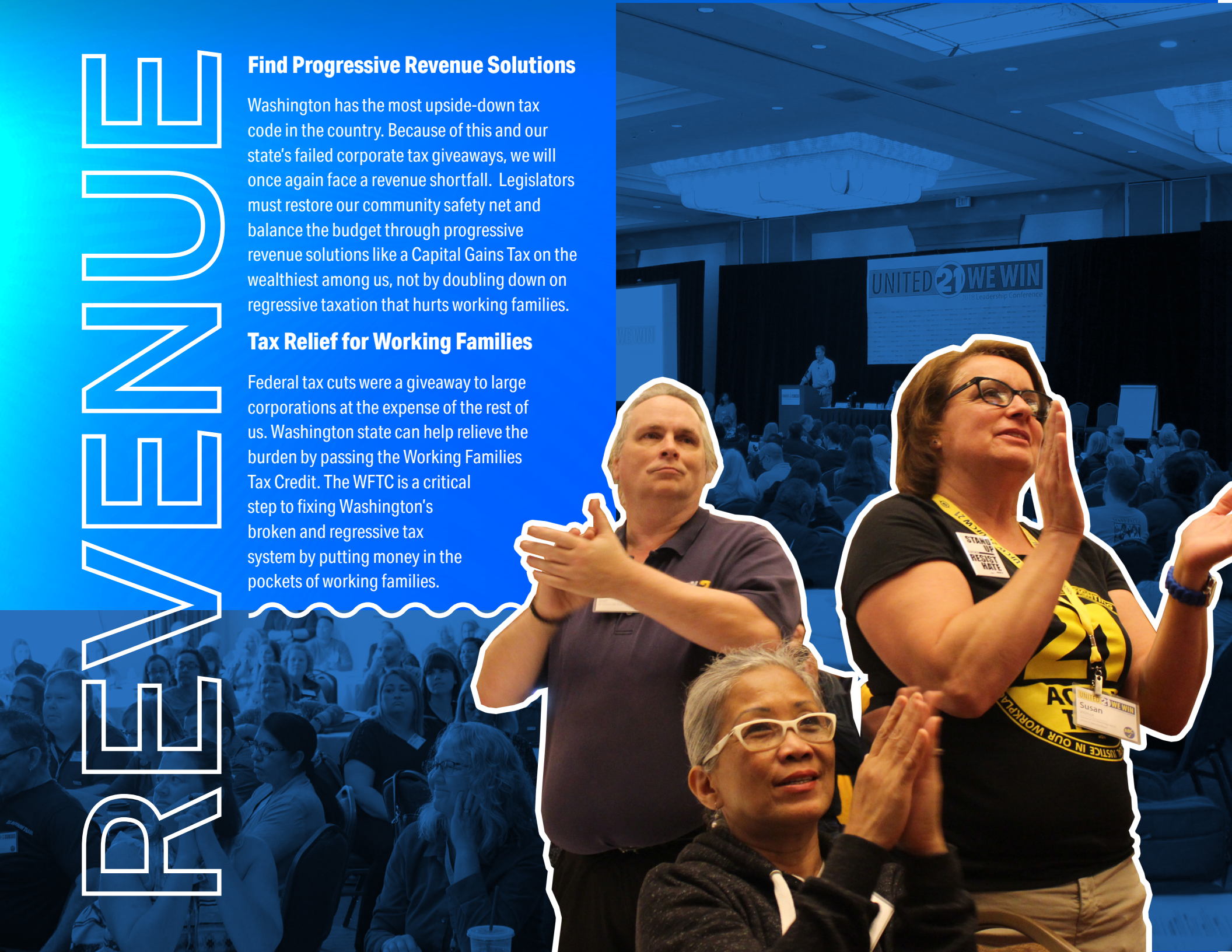
PROGRESSIVE REVENUE

Find Progressive Revenue Solutions

Washington has the most upside-down tax code in the country. Because of this and our state's failed corporate tax giveaways, we will once again face a revenue shortfall. Legislators must restore our community safety net and balance the budget through progressive revenue solutions like a Capital Gains Tax on the wealthiest among us, not by doubling down on regressive taxation that hurts working families.

Tax Relief for Working Families

Federal tax cuts were a giveaway to large corporations at the expense of the rest of us. Washington state can help relieve the burden by passing the Working Families Tax Credit. The WFTC is a critical step to fixing Washington's broken and regressive tax system by putting money in the pockets of working families.





COMMUNITY

Lower Housing Costs

People across the state are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living. Housing costs in particular have skyrocketed. We must put pressure on legislators to fund affordable housing programs and reduce barriers to building more affordable housing.

Make Childcare Affordable

Everyone should have access to quality, affordable childcare in their own community. When working families cannot afford childcare, they cannot afford to work. And when childcare workers can't make a living, they can't provide the safe, high-quality care that is so crucial. We need to find progressive solutions that lower childcare costs for working families, increase access and opportunities for kids, and treat childcare workers with the respect they deserve.

Protect At-Risk Communities

Over the past two years, there has been an alarming increase in anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, homophobic and racist rhetoric – coming from the highest levels of our government. These attacks on our most at-risk communities cannot stand. With the Keep Washington Working bill we can ensure our immigrant workforce can continue to live and work with dignity.





CANNABIS

Increase Labor Standards for Cannabis Workers

The workers who make the cannabis industry possible cannot get left behind. Over the last three years cannabis sales in Washington have nearly tripled. It is essential that as this industry continues to grow, workers receive fair wages, good benefits and a healthy work-life balance. We must work to pass legislation that rewards cannabis companies who support their workers' right to form a union and collectively bargain a fair contract.

Vacate Marijuana Misdemeanor Convictions

Now that Washington has legalized recreational cannabis use, we should stop holding a person's past cannabis possession against them. While some people are getting rich off of legalization others are still being punished for what is no longer a crime. These convictions disproportionately and unjustly impact communities of color. It is time to vacate these convictions and no longer allow misdemeanor cannabis offenses to negatively impact a person's life.

JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR WORKING FAMILIES

The Political Action Team is made up of UFCW 21 members that want to make change through political engagement and organizing. We are grocery workers, retail workers, and health care workers uniting to make our collective voice heard.

For more information, visit ufcw21.org/join or contact actionteams@ufcw21.org