



RAPUP-UAW Newsletter

Issue #3 | Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Dear <<First Name>>,

With authorization cards signed by nearly 1,000 postdocs and research associates, we are quickly approaching formal unionization and harnessing our growing voice in defense of research, education, and university autonomy. Read on to learn about the higher ed unions suing to block Trump's assault on Columbia University, how RAPUP-UAW members stood together to demand similar action from Penn, and what you can do to join the fight.

Penn community rallies to demand integrity from university administration



On Thursday, March 20, **Penn postdocs and research associates joined over 200 members from across the Penn community, including students, faculty, and staff, to demand that the university [stop complying with the Trump White House's illegal attacks on Penn workers and research](#).** The event, co-organized by seven campus labor organizations, ended with the delivery of a 30 foot long petition with over 1,200 signatures demanding that the Penn administration use its vast resources to stand up against Trump's attacks. As postdocs and research associates, we understand that we are stronger when we organize collectively and in community with other affected workers.



How can you get more involved?

RAPUP-UAW and CHOP Postdoc Joint Happy Hour Event!

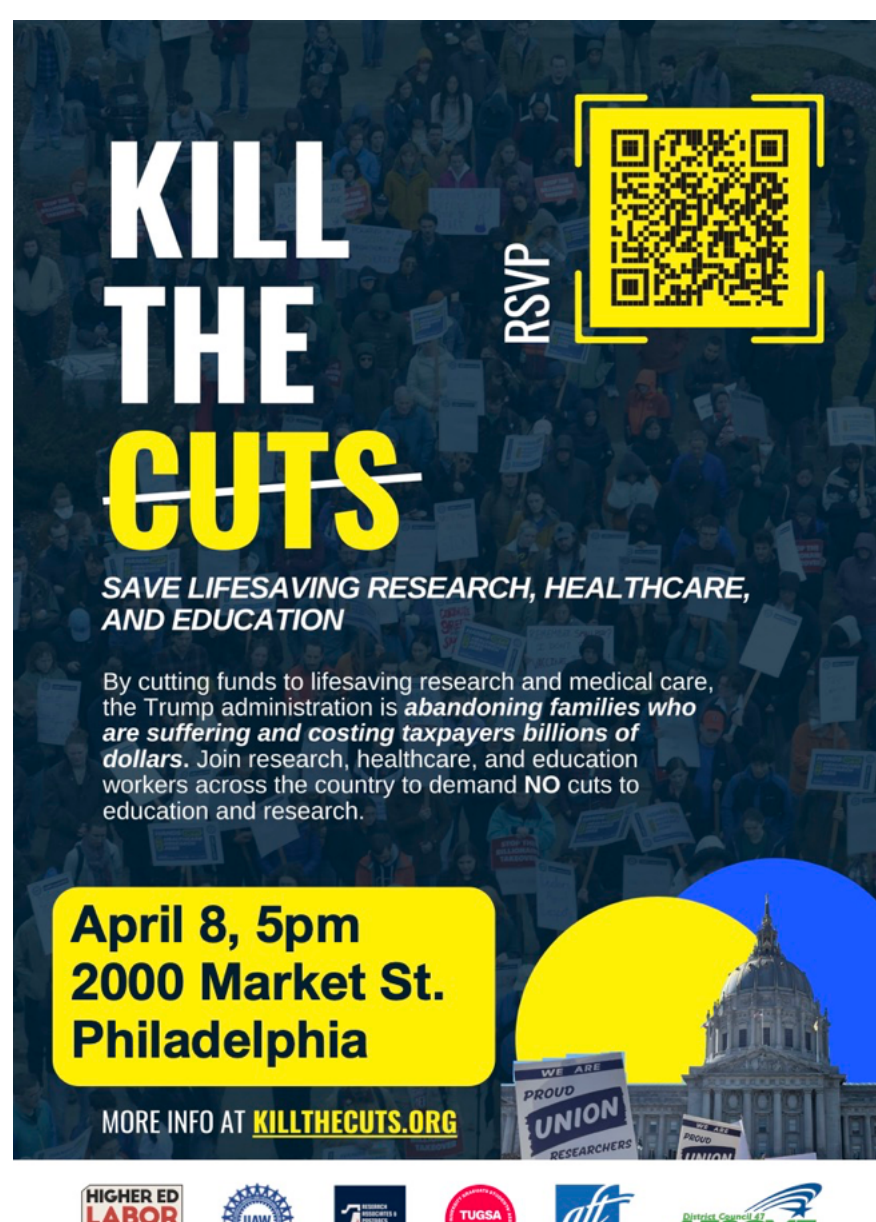
Stop by **Gojjo (4540 Baltimore Avenue)** on **Friday, April 4th, from 5:30 - 8:30 PM** to relax and meet fellow union enthusiasts from RAPUP-UAW and CHOP. We hope to see you there!



Rally to Kill the Cuts!

[Join us on Tuesday, April 8th, at 5 PM](#) outside of **US Senator Dave McCormick's office (2000 Market Street)** as we unite with higher ed and healthcare workers from across Philadelphia to demand that he and all our representatives reject ongoing cuts to research funding. These cuts represent a massive and imminent threat to public health and education, and the more of us that come out to say *"enough is enough,"* the harder we will be to ignore.

RSVP for the Kill the Cuts rally here!



AAUP and AFT sue Trump administration to safeguard Columbia's funding

Unions of higher education workers continue to mount the strongest defense of public research funding and secure working conditions in the face of the Trump administration's attacks. Last week, [The American Association of University Professors \(AAUP\) and the American Federation of Teachers \(AFT\) filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration over a decision to cut federal funding to Columbia University](#). The suit claims that the cuts were retaliatory in nature, linked to Columbia's refusal to fully comply with the administration's policies. The unions argue that this action infringes on the First Amendment rights of the university and its faculty, challenging the legality and fairness of the funding reductions, which were conducted with no regard for the due process required of the executive branch to withdraw such funding.

Meet an organizer!

WE ARE RAPUP-UAW
I SUPPORT FORMING A UNION BECAUSE...

Will Drayer
Materials Science and Engineering



"I believe us postdocs deserve collective bargaining! **We as workers should be allowed to democratically negotiate with our employer regarding our terms of employment.**"

Join us at
pennpostdocunion.org

In solidarity,

Will Drayer, Postdoctoral Researcher, Materials Science and Engineering
On behalf of the RAPUP-UAW Organizing Committee



[Website](#)



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