

April 11, 2022

Democratic Socialists of America - Bloomington Chapter
520 S. Walnut Street
PO Box 2122
Bloomington, IN 47402



Bloomington DSA would like to express its support for the graduate workers at Indiana University in their planned strike against the university. For too long IU has gotten away with underpaying its workers and Bloomington community members because it also functions as an educational institution. Many of our members are graduate workers and have worked with the union before, and can attest that the Indiana Graduate Student Workers Coalition is made up of brilliant organizers who are passionate about workers rights.

For centuries, socialists have been at the heart of the global labor movement. In recent years socialists and progressives have been behind the massive push to unionize workers during the pandemic such as the victories in Starbucks and Amazon stores. Indiana serves as an excellent example as the birthplace of one of the most prolific labor leaders and socialists in America: Eugene V. Debs. Socialism and Unionism both fundamentally push for a more democratic and egalitarian design of the workplace. Both are about not just asking for their fair share, but demanding. Workers should have a voice not a suggestion box.

The Indiana Graduate Student Workers Coalition and United Electric (IGWC-UE) are fighting for a more dignified and democratic workplace. They have continuously attempted to reach an agreement with the University for recognition without a work stoppage, but IU has ignored and talked down to them. The strike has historically been workers' most powerful tool, and their only option in cases like this where U.S. and Indiana labor law do not provide the option for a union election. Despite a majority of graduate workers signing union authorization cards the University continues to deny them a chance at a fair election. Without other recourse, a work stoppage is the most powerful option that workers have at their disposal. We express solidarity and support for the upcoming strike on April 13th, and encourage our members to aid the graduate workers in whatever way possible. Solidarity forever! For the union makes us strong!

-Bloomington DSA