

2020 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Derek Kilmer

District: U.S. House of Representatives, WA-06

1. **If you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a developmental disability (DD), would you describe its impact on you?**

Since my first election to the State House in 2004, I have been proud to partner with The ARC of Washington State and other advocacy groups to work on the issues that matter to those living with developmental disabilities and their loved ones. My mother-in-law and father-in-law both work professionally as researchers and service providers on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and my mother-in-law was a special education teacher. Through them and through involvement with The ARC of Washington, Self Advocates, the Parent Partnership, and other organizations over the years, I have gained a great appreciation for the importance of robust and fully funded services to ensure everyone can live with dignity.

Over the years, I have encountered many individuals and families who rely on state and federal resources to maintain independent and dignified lives. I believe it is a fundamental duty of our government to take care of our most vulnerable populations. I am proud that during my career in public service, my voting record reflects that duty. I will continue to support the needs of people with disabilities in the US Congress.

2. **Will you advocate to keep the items listed below for people with DD in HR 6800 as passed the House? HR 6800 (HEROES Act - Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act) contains:**

- expanding home and community-based services;
- **paid time off for family caregivers, including grandparents and siblings of people with disabilities;**
- ensuring stability of SNAP for food assistance and Supplemental Security Income;
- **fund direct support professionals to care for adult loved ones with disabilities at home and;**
- eliminating cost sharing for Medicaid beneficiaries (learn more by [clicking here](#)).

Yes! This pandemic has highlighted many of the inequities that already existed in this country. That's why I was proud to vote in favor of the HEROES Act, as it allocates vital resources to our most vulnerable communities, including provisions for our DD communities such as home and community-based services.

While the Senate has neglected to consider the bill to date, I can assure you that I will continue to advocate for the bill's passage with these provisions intact.

3. **Do you support HR 2417 (HEADs UP Act), HR 4882 (Community Safety Act of 2019) and HR 1529 (MAPSA Act - Marriage Access for People with Special Abilities Act)? If not, why?**

Yes - I support these efforts because I am an advocate for expanding access to and improving resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am a proud cosponsor of HR 1529, the MAPSA Act. Access to SSI should not be impacted by marital status. I support expanding access to new primary care and specialist services, incentivizing new research, and authorizing better reimbursement rates for providers who treat people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as proposed by the HEADs UP Act. Consistent with HR 4882, I support

efforts to ensure that first responders have the training needed to work with people who have I/DD.

4. Is there other information you'd like constituents with developmental disabilities and their family and friends to know?

I first ran for Congress because I believed new leadership was needed to fix Washington D.C. That starts by listening to the people I represent, so I hold regular town meetings and visit hundreds of local employers. New leadership means *bringing together Republicans and Democrats* to try and find common ground, even though it's hard. I cochair a coalition of Democrats and Republicans working to set aside partisanship and solve problems. I'm the youngest Committee Chair in Congress, asked to lead a committee to make Congress work better for the American people. There's a lot more to do, but we've passed several reforms with unanimous votes of Democrats and Republicans, something rare.

Having worked in economic development for a decade, I'm committed to helping our region's economic recovery, supporting small businesses, and getting folks back to work. I helped write legislation passed by Democrats and Republicans to help our region recover from Coronavirus. It provided cash to families, rent and mortgage relief, assistance to the unemployed, and aid to small businesses; but more is needed.

Bringing people together isn't at odds with standing up for our values. I helped stop Donald Trump's attempts to gut the Affordable Care Act. I've championed legislation to protect people with pre-existing conditions, reduce drug costs, strengthen veterans' care, and improve care at rural hospitals. *We need universal, affordable healthcare.*

I'm endorsed by environmental groups like the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club because I've championed clean air and water, restoring Puget Sound and fighting the President's proposed drilling off our coast. I support science and believe *we must combat climate change*. *We need to fix our broken political system*. I'm leading the fight to reduce the influence of special interests in elections and crack down on politicians who cheat. I am proud to be endorsed by End Citizens United for my leadership in working to get big money out of politics.

I'm proud of the fact that an article in *The Washington Post* identified me as one of the five most effective Democrats in Congress. I'm not done fighting for our community. I ask for your vote to keep working to get things on track.