

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Larry Hoff

District: 18th

Position: 2

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

I've been blessed with getting to know a number of wonderful people while I've been in office. One of my dearest friends, who I've had the joy of being a part of my life for only the past 3 years, is developmentally disabled. He brings a renewed sense of happiness and excitement to me each time we meet. Because of virus complications, we now talk on the phone a few times each week, but I am energized after each call. His outlook on life - - his ability to overcome obstacles - his true sense of compassion are traits to be admired and emulated. My life has been brighter with Adam in it.

2. What are your top three legislative priorities and how would you help people with developmental disabilities in them?

Of course, the highest priority today is leading our district and state through and past the COVID-19 complications. We have a variety of major challenges ranging between the medical aspect of those inflicted with the virus to the economic tragedy faced by our small businesses to the emotional impact of forced isolation. I believe that we should all work to open opportunities for our friends to enjoy the life they deserve. Employment obstacles should be minimized as well as other barriers they experience on a regular basis.

3. With the current economic crisis, how would you protect services that people with I/DD and their families need?

The budget complications arising from COVID-19 will be significant. We simply must fight to maintain the services that currently exist while searching for areas to cut within the larger government structure. And within that fight, we should also search for ways to enhance the lives of our developmentally disabled friends. Sometimes, enhancing lives doesn't require a large budget commitment. Some obstacles simply require an understanding of the challenge then a desire to work toward solutions.

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

I'd simply like to thank all of the wonderful people and their families that I've met while in office. My life is so much better as they have opened my eyes to the joy they share on a regular basis.