

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Sam Hunt

District: 22

Position: Senator

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 have worked with lots of people in the DD community through meetings with constituents, visits to Morningside, and visiting businesses where people work. I have a special place in my heart for Wagner's Bakery in Olympia because Rudy always hired DD folks to work in the business. This spring when we could visit places (remember those days?), I went to the Tumwater Albertson's and visited with Hugh who is a long time employee there and has a job that enables him to live independently. I know Hugh from church, and it was great to see him on the job and watch him work.

Also, I had a cousin, Megan, who had a severe developmental/intellectual disability. She came from a very large family, 12 siblings, and lived at home for over 30 years. She was an integral member of her extended family as well.

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

- Addressing the state's \$6+ billion shortfall is the number one issue. I will advocate for increased revenues through enactment of progressive tax reform, including a capital gains tax and intangibles tax. Without additional revenues, hopefully the federal government will step up to the issue, DD and other essential services are at risk.
- Enacting progressive tax reform.
- If we have learned nothing else from the pandemic, we really know that our healthcare system needs improvement. Nationally, with over 27 million losing healthcare because their jobs were interrupted through no fault of their own, comprehensive healthcare needs to be addressed. We need the federal government to do its part, and the state must do the same--obviously a major problem given the budget crisis.
- And a fourth is providing equitable and adequate funding for education from preschool through graduate school.

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

As I mentioned above, we need progressive tax reform and more stable revenues to protect vital state services.

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

Thank you for what you do! It is always refreshing to get Diana's (*The Arc's*) smiley face charts in Ways and Means.