

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Pam Madden-Boyer

District: 23

Position: Senate

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 spent almost 30yrs with the Central Kitsap School District as a school bus driver and driver trainer. In that time I worked with children of many different abilities. One of the things I was proudest of was advocating for the special needs children. The other very special area that I loved was working with them to successfully fit in with the rest of the students. It is so fulfilling when they achieve success!

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

My top legislative priority is returning to parents all of the rights to deal effectively with their own children, regardless of their ages. Parents need to be the top persons deciding what is in their childrens best interests, whether they are young or older. The next priority is their education. They have the right to get the absolute best out of their education! We can strengthen partnerships with private business' and allow them access to things like CTE ie: skills training in order to get them ready for fulfilling employment. What I feel needs the most help is how to structure for when parents are no longer able to care for them in their homes.

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

The current economic crisis is going to cause all programs to take some unavoidable hits. However, my strenghts are in figuring out ways to do the near impossible. Whenever someone says it can;t be done, I say watch me! We are going to have to look outside the box for solutions for everything in the next few years.

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

Adults with disabilities need different levels of resourses depending on their disabilities. But perhaps the most critical issue is easily being able to access the information! Knowledge is power and for the disabled that is even more critical.

Thank you