

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities:

Name: Kelly Chambers

District: 25

Position: State Representative

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 several family members (cousins) who are developmentally disabled. I try to keep in touch with them as they are now young adults and recently lost their mom. I always try to look at legislation and see how it will impact them and if the legislation actually has the affect it is intended to. I also try to look at some of the challenges my cousins are facing and then look to the state's system to see if it is helping or failing those who are dependent on it.

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

Three of my top legislative priorities are responsible spending, healthcare, and transportation. It is so important to protect vulnerable people and make sure state spending aligns with that goal. I have a background in long-term care and recognize that we must make care funding a higher priority in our spending. With a both a professional and personal background that are deeply touched by individuals with I/DD, I always assess policy to see whether or not it is serving them. This includes making sure that people with developmental disabilities have access to high quality healthcare and accessible transportation services.

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

I understand how critical it is to protect vulnerable populations and safeguard the services that give them more independence in our communities. Prioritized and responsible spending has been and will remain critical to protecting services needed by people with I/DD and their families. This is something I am ready to advocate for and to reform where needed. For the well-being of people with I/DD, it is important to prioritize smaller group home settings over one-size-fits-all institutional establishments. It is also important that we have a robust economy in Washington that will generate the tax revenue needed to fund critical services like care for vulnerable populations.

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

I spent the last interim between legislative sessions proactively reaching out to various providers and visiting group homes, talking with staff, and touring facilities. Long-term care policy is an issue I hold close to heart and I look forward to serving you in Olympia.