

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Andy Billig

District: 3

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 have had many experiences with people with developmental disabilities particularly through my past work as the General Manager and President of the Spokane Indians Baseball Team. The staff members with disabilities we hired became friends and great contributors to our organization. In many ways they were more valuable than the non-disabled staff members because of the unique perspectives they brought. They made everyone else around them better.

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

1. Better investment and transparency for ESIT funds to help young children with disabilities.

2. Increased funding for K-12 special education and training for educators related to special ed

3. End the sub-minimum wage.

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

It comes down to funding and priorities. Not only should we not cut DD, we actually know we already underfund DD so we should try to find more resources. We will have to consider revenue as a solution as a way to minimize cuts and make sure we maximize the federal resources our state receives.

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

I want to hear from you! As your state senator, I work for you and I can only do a good job serving you if I receive your feedback. Please e-mail or call me anytime with ideas, feedback and ways I can support the DD community.