Name: JJ Wandler
District: 7th Legislative District
Position: Representative, 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 worked for two years in high school at a facility called the Christopher House in Wenatchee, Washington. It was, and is, a residential living facility for persons with I/DD. My experience working there helped me develop a fuller understanding of the challenges and day to day lives of persons with I/DD, and helped my empathic development from a young age.

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

1). Passing the Whole Washington health care plan which would ensure that all Washingtonians have health coverage. This would also ensure that persons with I/DD get the medical care they need with no concern for cost.

2). A Washington State Bank, which would help Washington make money and keep our money right here in the state. The savings that a State bank can offer would be able to ensure that services for persons with I/DD remain perpetually funded.

3). A wealth tax on Washington's billionaires and their companies. A revamped tax structure for Washington State that will also ensure that services for persons with I/DD remain fully funded.

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

Services for persons with I/DD are essential services and will not be considered for any cuts. The state government needs to shift its priorities to make sure that people are taken care of over corporations.

4. Is there other information you’d like constituents with developmental disabilities and their family and friends to know?
I am running for the state legislature to represent the needs of the people. I have a brother that was born with albinism so I know firsthand the challenges, the prejudices, and the struggle that persons with disabilities face. Addressing those challenges will be a priority for me.

JJ Wandler