

2020 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Rick Larsen

District: 2

1. If you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a developmental disability (DD), would you describe its impact on you?

The experiences of Washingtonians who represent the broad diversity of the 2nd District, including people with developmental disabilities, motivate my work in Congress. I will continue to advocate for support and services for people with disabilities.

2. Will you advocate to keep the items listed below for people with DD in HR 6800 as passed the House?

HR 6800 (HEROES Act - Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act) contains

- expanding home and community-based services;
- paid time off for family caregivers, including grandparents and siblings of people with disabilities;
- ensuring stability of SNAP for food assistance and Supplemental Security Income;
- fund direct support professionals to care for adult loved ones with disabilities at home and;
- eliminating cost sharing for Medicaid beneficiaries (learn more by [clicking here](#)).

I voted for the HEROES Act, and I continue to support these provisions included in the bill. Many of these provisions speak to longtime priorities for me, such as the stability of SNAP. The pandemic brought to the forefront just how important many of these services are for people with developmental disabilities.

3. Do you support HR 2417 (HEADS UP Act), HR 4882 (Community Safety Act of 2019) and HR 1529 (MAPSA Act - Marriage Access for People with Special Abilities Act)? If not, why?

A. HR 2417: Thank you for bringing this bill to my attention. I will learn more about the legislation and consider supporting it.

B. H.R. 4882: I fully support improved police officer training. I am not currently a cosponsor of the Community Safety Act, but I am a co-sponsor of the Justice in Policing Act, which provides funding for improved police officer response to individuals in crisis. As officers' roles expanded in communities, training failed to keep pace. Thank you for bringing this bill to my attention. I will learn more about the legislation and consider supporting it.

C. HR 1529: Thank you for bringing this bill to my attention. I will learn more about the legislation and consider supporting it.

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

Some of my most important advocacy work occurs during the appropriations process. I regularly support the effort to fully fund IDEA, finally meeting the obligations Congress committed itself to when they passed the law. Additionally, I support funding for education technology and devices for students with disabilities. All students deserve the tools and support they need to learn.

I introduced the Signing is Language Act to ensure dual-language learners who use sign language to communicate at home have access to the resources they need to succeed in the classroom. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, native sign language users do not qualify as English Language Learners. My bill expands the definition of "English learner" to include these students, ensuring they are counted as English learners for

determining the appropriate level of federal funding for state English language programs.

Economic opportunity is essential for constituents with developmental disabilities. I will continue to meet and work with local groups that help connect individuals with developmental disabilities, including mental and behavioral health issues, to high quality jobs in manufacturing and other fields.