

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Adrienne Moore

District: 12

Position: State Representative, Position 1

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

Across my professional career running a social and health service organization I have built friendships with, supported, and advocated for many of my neighbors with developmental disabilities and their families. I have seen how challenging it can be to navigate a healthcare system that is layered with paperwork, clauses, and coverage gaps; I have walked with people when they apply for affordable housing, then move onto a 400 person waitlist; I have helped families as they try to patch together a safety net while caring for a loved one with a developmental disability and navigate a caregiving schedule, and I have seen what happens when a school district is so underfunded that parents have no choice but to relentlessly battle for their kids to have the support they need in the classroom. All of these experiences have shown me that our systems and our policies let people down over and over again - and we have to do better.

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

1. **Healthcare:** No one should have to go bankrupt so they can get healthcare, yet two-thirds of Americans who file for bankruptcy say medical bills led to their financial crisis. Washington State can provide interventions for the crippling costs of healthcare by offering a public option, negotiating for prescription drug prices, and offering more support for middle-income Washingtonians. We also know that many of our neighbors and families struggle with addiction and mental health challenges, but don't have good options for treatment. We can incentivize high quality community-based health systems to reduce costs and ensure our rural people get the care they need. The strategies we move forward need to wrap around our most vulnerable neighbors, particularly those with developmental disabilities. When we prioritize profit over wellbeing, those with developmental disabilities and their families lose out more than most.

2. **Fire Prevention:** Our communities deserve fresh air to breath and access to clean water. We can reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and water scarcity by pursuing environmental protections that reflect the needs of working people, families, farms ,and future economic development. I helped lead fire recovery efforts for more than two years when Washington's largest wildfires swept across the area. I saw that wildfires don't just affect our land, they affect our health. And people who are already vulnerable to poor health, poverty, or isolation, are at even higher risk. My approach to fire prevention would always center community and strive to leave no neighbor behind.

3. **Affordable housing:** Across North Central Washington, the high cost of housing and the limited number of available rentals have created a housing crisis. Low- and middle-income households are being priced out of their homes, neighborhoods, and schools. We can address outdated, excessive regulations that make it challenging to build affordable housing and we can provide viable housing solutions so local people can stay in their home towns and jobs, schools, and community. We can incentivize permanent affordable rentals; develop land trust or other homeowner

models; and ensure that every one of our elders and vulnerable adults has safe, stable, supportive housing. I have worked extensively with housing subsidies, resources, and authorities, and I know those with developmental disabilities in my community are often struggling to find housing they can afford and feel safe in. As an elected representative, I would work for housing for all people, including those with developmental disabilities, it's the only way we can have a thriving community for everyone.

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

I believe this is a time to invest in local communities and protect services that are essential in our community, including resources and pathways to employment for those with I/DD and their families. This is a time to advocate for new progressive taxes that require our wealthiest residents to pay their fair share. This is a time to close loopholes that protect corporate empires. This is a time to make those who have profited from the pandemic pay into recovery efforts. I will champion economic relief packages that bolster healthcare, protect our safety net (including services that support those with disabilities and their families), increase cash payments to vulnerable households, build efficiencies and prevent small businesses from collapsing. I will be an advocate for rural residents, and all of us in Washington State, at a time when we need it most.

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

I know the issues my community struggles with, because I've lived many of them personally as a young single mom who grew up working class, and because I've committed my entire career to working from the trenches with individuals and families as they strive toward a better future for themselves. My campaign is committed to moving our community forward and introducing the possibility of a better collective future -- but that future is only possible when those who are most vulnerable to isolation, poverty, poor health, and stigmatization are cared for. Because our State has a Democratic majority in the Senate and the House of Representatives, our rural elected representatives often don't have a seat at the decision-making table when it comes to key issues like health care or housing. When our district goes unrepresented, our kids, families, retirees, teachers, workers, farmers, and small businesses pay the price. I see partnership with nonprofits like the Arc of Washington and direct relationships with the families and individuals who live with developmental disabilities as critical components of effective leadership.