

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Marcus Riccelli

District: 3

Position: 1

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

Growing up in Spokane, I used to play basketball with Justin, a kid on my block that had Down syndrome. I remember many days after school shooting hoops, as well as during school lunch. We had a lot of fun together. That friendship cemented my conviction that each of us has something unique and special to share with the world, and everyone deserves the opportunity to make the most of their life.

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

I am committed to investing in our neighborhood schools, creating family-wage jobs, and protecting our most vulnerable. I'm concerned about any cuts to staffing for aids that assist in DI classes, the erosion of our social safety net, and the challenges people with disabilities have faced securing gainful employment. I will continue to advocate so that everyone has opportunities to learn, grow, and make a living. I am also committed to ensuring all people have access to quality, affordable healthcare. I worked very hard in expanding dental access in our state for our underserved populations and healthcare access in general.

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

We need to raise progressive revenue so vital services are not cut. I would like to start by closing loopholes and implementing a capital gains tax. I also support taxing claims paid insurance companies to raise revenue to subsidize/reduce premiums on health care similar to a bill that I introduced HB 2901.

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

Our community is stronger when none of us fall through the cracks. I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspectives on the challenges facing people with developmental disabilities. I also have greatly appreciated the opportunity to be educated by my constituents with developmental disabilities, their families and friends the advocacy has been meaningful. It has been an honor to serve you, and I hope to be able to continue to advocate on your behalf for a Washington state where everyone has an opportunity to thrive.