

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Eric E Robertson

District: 31st

Position: House 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 grew up in Buckley, the son of a Rainier School employee. Our community embraced the DD members and they were always apart of our town. As a student in the public schools there, I had many opportunities to interact and understand what I/DD was all about. I currently have family members who are I/DD and understand the challenges and opportunities that go along with that.

As a former legislator, who prime sponsored legislation to create opportunities for I/DD independent living (Friendship House was the first of those) and employment opportunities for those with special circumstances - I look forward to advocating again. While I also fought the closure of Rainier School for those residents who do not have the ability to live independently, I have encouraged 'supported employment' opportunities for those who can.

As the Administrator of Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) in Auburn, I worked with Trillium Employment to match our organizational needs to one of their clients who has Intellectually Disabilities which could meet the unique position at the VRFA. I am proud to say we were able to find that match and I was able to hire a very valuable employee. Today, he still works there, prospering as a professional in the Logistics Division. He has a great job, which pays a living wage, has health benefits, a pension plan contribution, a deferred savings program match, vacation and holiday pay, and a future for self-sufficiency when his parents pass.

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

I do not have a specific plan. I would continue to work on the issues I advocated for in the past, before I voluntarily left the Legislature. I would continue to work with ARC, Trillium, and the other advocates for the I/DD community to create opportunities for all citizens.

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

I will continue my work to create a responsible and balance budget for all, ensuring those in the I/DD communities are protected - as they often cannot take care of themselves without their support systems. Their families need tax relief and opportunity - and the services that have proven to work over the years to give them opportunity.

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

I served two terms in the House of Representative in the 31st District (1994-1998) before taking a promotion at my profession - the Washington State Patrol. My last term, I was elected by my peers to the #3 leadership position in the House - Majority Caucus Chairman. I have worked extensively then, and in my professional life recently,

to advance the opportunities for those with I/DD to become independent in both living and employment opportunities. You can read more about me and my candidacy at www.VoteEricRobertson.com - check out all of my “Endorsements” and “Meet Eric” for more information about my life and career!