

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Dan Griffey

District: 35

Position: State House

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

My uncle had a developmental disability and I saw firsthand the toll it took on my grandma. We loved him very much, but care could be challenging and finding time for my grandma to have some time to herself was difficult. We had a huge family and most everyone helped pitch in until Uncle Merle had to go into an assisted living facility. What a hard choice that was. I have a lot of compassion for those who have these disabilities and those that do their best to care for them.

Recently my daughter received news that our grandson has an 80% chance of being born with Down Syndrome. It was not the news we were hoping for, but we were all ready to team up as a family and do whatever we could to make life enjoyable for everyone. Her latest test results indicate that he may not have Down Syndrome. We are prepared either way. I know there are many health challenges that come with this diagnosis and we are going to do our best to support our daughter and her family as we all navigate them, if this is the case.

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

Increased Employment opportunities for all.

Making sure that everyone including those with disabilities have an opportunity to earn an income. Work can be very rewarding and can give one a purpose and a way to give back to their community in a positive manner.

Anticrime Legislation that removes loopholes that allow criminals to walk free.

No one should live in fear. I worked diligently to end the statute of limitations on felony sex crimes against children while expanding reporting opportunities for others. I am just as committed to ensuring we enforce the law and cut out loopholes that allow those in our more vulnerable populations that can be targeted at a much greater degree by criminals.

Mental Health crisis prevention.

My first born is suffering from bi-polar and schizophrenia. I have worked hard to get her to treatment centers and just when they start getting her back on her feet, she quits taking her medication and the cycle starts all over again. My wife and I have spent countless hours trying to navigate a system that is prone to shutting families out. We know her best and we want the best for her.

I am committed to finding solutions that include family's support whenever possible. I have spoke with several ER doctors and I have worked across the aisle with Representative Lauren Davis and there are some simple solutions that we believe will make a big difference. We also must keep in mind that rural and urban communities have different challenges and support may need to be flexible to accommodate those unique needs. I know that developmental disabilities are not the same as mental health needs but I do believe that families must be included if at all possible in the decision making process. That we must use a community center approach and keep our families close together.

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

I have been made aware and I agree that people with developmental disabilities are essential (Meaning funding as one of the first priorities in the budget not last). My votes will reflect this.

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

As a first responder (firefighter/EMT) I see the failures we as a state allow firsthand. I am committed to addressing these and have done so every opportunity I get in Olympia.

I want to thank you. You all do a tremendous job caring for those you love, and I know how much you give of yourself to make the impossible possible. It means a lot to me and I thank you for sending this questionnaire out every election cycle. Have you thought about yearly- just before session to remind all our elected officials just how important this is?

Again, I am committed to helping in any way I can. My office door is always open, and I am just a phone call away- (360-204-9636) should anything come up. This is my cell and you are welcome to text me as well. That can be easier to respond to at times.