

## 2020 Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Lori Feagan

District: 4

Position: 1 State Representative

***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 have cared for many, many individuals with developmental, neurocognitive, and physical disabilities throughout my 40+ years in healthcare. My philosophy of care is one of inclusivity, compassion, and respect for the value of every person and the unique gifts they bring to their families and to those who lives they touch.

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

I am committed to continuing to work toward ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for every resident of our State. As a Nationally certified Family Nurse Practitioner specializing in Internal my patients often struggle to obtain and manage multiple chronic health conditions, medication needs, and healthcare emergencies. The cost of comprehensive healthcare, and drug therapy can be cost-prohibitive, despite Medicare or Medicaid. Ensuring comprehensive healthcare for every Washingtonian means our population will have better health and better quality of life throughout the continuum of life.

I am committed to working with other legislators to ensure every district is appropriately funded to provide every child, regardless of ability or zip code, with quality childcare and comprehensive K-12 education. Supporting children and their families is the greatest return on investment we can make. Educational equity is essential to ensure all children grow to achieve their potential.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has created more urgency to address our state's regressive tax structure. Low and middle-class families and those of us on fixed incomes cannot afford to pay more than corporations and the wealthiest. I look forward to addressing this disparity as our state leaders work to improve revenue and try to limit the impact of the economic crisis on vulnerable citizens.

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

Across the board, state agencies have been asked to identify potential areas of savings, and those will be carefully evaluated for their value. While the legislature considers spending cuts, we cannot repeat the "cut-all" strategy from 2008 when defunding education and essential social services negatively impacted low to middle class families, mental health, and services to our most vulnerable citizens. Our budget priorities should always reflect our values. I will work to preserve investments that create the greatest good, and fight to maintain services to those who are at risk of being left behind. The resources for essential care, safety, therapies, and education for people with I/DD, and the services needed by their families, would be a budgetary priority that I would fight for. However, this is not merely a financial consideration, but my commitment to be a champion for those who are at greatest risk of having their needs disregarded.

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

My decision to run for office comes from the belief that we can and must do better for the citizens of our District. The 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District has been my home for nearly 40 years.

When I made the decision to run for office, I knew we had to have someone in Olympia who would show up, lead with dignity, and prioritize the future of our children, the security of our families and seniors, the economic security of our labor force and business community, and the health of our community.

As a critical care Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner I've unconditionally cared for thousands of Eastern Washington residents during the most vulnerable times of their lives and understand the importance of advocating for quality of life. Those experiences, memories, and people anchor me and inform my perspective as a community member, professional, and leader ready to work hard for everyone living in the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

Now, looking forward to a period of recovery from the COVID-19 public health crisis, our district needs a representative who will be collaborative and responsive. I believe I have the experience and dedication to our district be the leader we need. This crisis is a call to action. I will be at the table to represent the needs of the people of the 4th district when important decisions are being made.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to answer these important questions. I would be happy follow up with any additional information or questions you may have.