



**Name:** Michelle Caldier

**E-Mail:** michelle@michellecaldier.com

**Website:** [caldierforstaterepresentative.com](http://caldierforstaterepresentative.com)

**House District 26 Position 2**

***Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has an intellectual/developmental disability? (I/DD) If so would you describe its impact on you? How would it affect you in this job?***

I was in foster care as a child and shared a room with a severely autistic woman. She taught me how to be patient and understand how to communicate with others facing challenges.

***What are your top three priorities and how would you ensure people with developmental disabilities and their families are included in them?***

Crime/Safety, Reducing the Cost of Inflation, and Putting our most vulnerable first

***Washington is 38th in the Nation for per-capita spending for individuals with I/DD. Would improving this statistic be a priority for you, and if so, what would your strategy be?***

Our state has not prioritized caring for individuals with I/DD and needs to do so. The funds we do allocate go to employment contractors and bureaucracy instead of the people. Budget writers should put this population at the top of the list instead of fighting each other for a small percentage of the budget.

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

I lost my vision 8 years ago and have a prosthetic eye, which requires me to rely on others for transportation. I understand the challenges people face when advocating for themselves and their loved ones.