



**Name:** Patrick Miller

**E-Mail:** Patrick@miller.4-wa.com

**Website:** [miller.4-wa.com](http://miller.4-wa.com)

**House District 9 position 1**

***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 have several close friends who have children with I/DD. Watching them attempting to work within the system (or lack of system) as they are met with barriers, lack of understanding, unwillingness to help address the issues, and lack of resources both financial and functional, has been eye-opening. The frustration they have experienced and their need to constantly speak out for appropriate assistance, even when mandated, has made me very sensitive to this issue. This should not be the way the issue of I/DD is handled. We need to do much better to increase awareness of the service needs and provide the resources to make them possible.

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

My three top priorities are: Respect, Representation, and Sustainability. People with developmental disabilities and their families deserve the respect and support of the general public. They are members of our society. I will be aware of this need and will work to further this goal. They will be represented and their voice will be heard.

***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?***

Yes. We need to increase public awareness of the numbers of people affected by I/DD, the impact the lack of appropriate support has both on the individual and the family, and the steps required to address the issue.

***Is there other information you'd like constituents with developmental disabilities and their family and friends to know?*** No matter what--this is an incredibly important topic to me. If I am lucky enough to be elected, I hope that you know my door will always be open--and please, come to me with any concerns.