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***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?***

My own godson lives with significant disabilities and his life would have turned out very differently without his incredible mom and family support and services being provided to him. It would have been difficult to access transportation, public and private spaces, and receive an education without help from legislation like the ADA.

I was proud to be a champion for the I/DD community in congress and will absolutely do the same as governor.

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

Cost of Living

Washington families are struggling to make ends meet. I entered this race to help those families. Not because of any political ambition, but because I saw families struggling and I have a record of fighting for them.

We must focus on lowering property and energy taxes. We need to pass the stalled legislation that will make childcare more affordable with tax credits and subsidies; streamline zoning laws and speed up permitting to bring down accessible affordable housing costs by increasing supply; and use tax credits to incentivize rent relief.

Drugs/Homelessness

The ongoing drug crisis affects many families across our state. People with I/DD are at increased risk of being exposed to drug-related crime or even addiction, particularly as the crisis affects broader communities. As governor, I will work to implement practical and pragmatic solutions to solving this problem and ensure that those at an increased risk of harm are protected from the consequences of the drug epidemic affecting our streets.

Education

Special Education has not been fully funded for years. There have been attempts, but it has not had the focus necessary. As governor I will make sure Special Education is fully funded.

***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?***

Washington is a state that flourishes off our innovative ideas, and it is unacceptable to leave vulnerable citizens living with I/DD behind. Through implementing public-private partnerships we can encourage collaboration with expert leading groups who understand and prioritize the most essential priorities for those with I/DD.

We must prioritize ending isolation and working on inclusion in education, housing and transportation.

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

I'm proud of my record in congress fighting for our most vulnerable. In congress I sponsored and passed legislation like the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which required states to allow individuals with disabilities to set up tax free ABLE savings accounts.

As your governor, you have my commitment that I will work with you and listen to the concerns and priorities of the I/DD community.