

2022 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

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

Since my first election to the State House in 2004, I have been proud to partner with The Arc of Washington State and other advocacy groups to work on the issues that matter to those living with developmental disabilities and their loved ones. My mother-in-law and father-in-law both work professionally as researchers and service providers on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and my mother-in-law was a special education teacher. Through them and through involvement with The Arc of Washington, Self Advocates, the Parent Partnership, and other organizations over the years, I have gained a great appreciation for the importance of robust and fully funded services to ensure everyone can live with dignity.

Over the years, I have encountered many individuals and families who rely on state and federal resources to maintain independent and dignified lives. I believe it is a fundamental duty of our government to take care of our most vulnerable populations. I am proud that during my career in public service, my voting record reflects that duty. I will continue to support the needs of people with disabilities in the US Congress.

2. Home and Community Based Services expansion is a top priority for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. HR 4131/S 2210 will expand HCBS. Will you support or oppose expansion of this critical program? Please explain why.

Yes, I am a cosponsor of HR 4131 because it builds on historic investments outlined in President Biden's American Jobs Plan and enables seniors and people with disabilities to remain in their homes, stay active in their communities, and lead independent lives.

3. Will you support or oppose HR 4131/S 2065: Updates eligibility for the supplemental security income program and HR 761: Marriage Access for People with Special Abilities Act excludes a spouse's income and resources when determining eligibility for SSI, and disregards marital status when calculating the SSI benefit amount, for an adult who has a diagnosed IDD? Please explain why.

Yes - I support these efforts because I am an advocate for expanding access to and improving resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am a proud cosponsor of HR 4131, the Better Care Better Jobs Act. Similarly, I am proud to support HR 761 because access to SSI should not be impacted by marital status.

4. Do you support or oppose HR 3474/S 1858: Keeping All Students Safe Act - Prohibit and prevent seclusion, mechanical restraint, chemical restraint, and dangerous restraints that restrict breathing, and to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint in schools? Please explain why.

Yes, I am supportive of HR 3474 because we must do more to keep our students safe. The most current data from the Civil Rights Data Collection reveals that 101,990 students were subjected to seclusion or restraint in the United States during the 2017-18 school year, 78 percent of whom were students with disabilities and disproportionately Black boys. I am proud to support HR 3474 to ban dangerous restraint practices to create a safer environment for students and provide additional training for school personnel to address school-expected behavior with safer, evidence-based practices.

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