

2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Name

Claire Wilson

District Number

30

Position (Representative or Senator)

State Senator

Email *

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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a intellectual/developmental disability (IDD), and if so, would you describe its impact on you? If not, what impact do you want to have for people with IDD and their families?

My career as an education professional, and as a legislator, have been about improving our education and investing in the resources kids need to thrive. I believe that my work in education is where I feel I can make the most impact for people with IDD and their families. Throughout the pandemic, schools struggled to continue providing students with adequate resources. Educators (especially paraeducators), are underpaid, overworked, and understaffed. In many cases, youth with IDD may go unnoticed entirely or may not have access to the support and resources they need to succeed. I am working in the legislature to ensure that every child is resourced and cared for. I am proud of my work on SB 5237 which is aimed at supporting the development of kids across our state. The bill invests in affordable childcare, early childhood development programs, infant and early childhood mental health consultation services, and more. When I craft legislation aimed at supporting children's development – or any other issue – I explicitly protect those with differing needs and those who are repeatedly left out of protections and resources including kids with IDD. I will continue working to help kids with IDD and their families in the legislature. Universal design for learning, least restrictive environments and inclusion have been focus areas in my work in the early care and education and K-12 education.

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

My top three priorities are fully funding education, increasing affordability, and expanding healthcare accessibility. Those in the IDD community and their families need resources, they need education that serves their needs, and they need access to high-quality healthcare. I am working to fully fund our schools so that they are able to offer all of the necessary services to the IDD community and hire enough staff and paraeducators to meet the needs of these children. Additionally, our schools should be fully

equipped with mental health resources and professionals. Additionally, we must ensure that people with IDD are able to afford housing, healthcare, and other essential services – I am fighting for this goal.

3. If cuts became necessary due to a recession or economic downturn, how would you protect services that people with IDD and their families need?

During an economic downturn, vulnerable members of our community, including those with IDD need services and stability more than ever. I will not cut essential services during a budget crisis.

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

I want you to know that I will fight for your families and communities, and I will not let your voices go unheard. I will ensure that everyone with an IDD has access to comprehensive resources, such as affordable housing, healthcare, and quality, tailored education.

Your Campaign Website

<http://www.claireforsenate.com>