

2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Name: Dr. Patricia Weber

District Number: 32

Position: Senator

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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?

I have spent the last 30 years as a physician at Fircrest RHC.

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

Mental health services, housing, and climate change. Obviously, mental health services and housing are high priorities for sustaining people with IDD. They must be sustained. My position on climate change is also one of sustainability. Everything we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment, clean air, clean water, and food to sustain our lives. People with IDD and their families, as part of the human family, have universal human rights to a sustainable future just as much as anyone else.

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?

I do not look first to cut social services but rather, first cut tax exemptions. Tax Exemptions are larger than the general fund of the state budget. A tax expenditure budget would bring transparency to our state's use of the taxpayers dollars. IDD people and their families are not in competition with other general fund tax categories. Rather, they are in competition with the recipients of tax exemptions for tax revenues. This entire scheme is one in which entities that should be paying taxes keep that amount of money for themselves rather than paying those dollars to the Department of Revenue.

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

The Ways and Means Committee in the Senate only allocates about half of the tax revenue due to the state of Washington. About half of the tax revenue is held back as tax exemptions. Citizen advocates spend time in competition with other petitioners for tax allocation of only half of the available tax revenue. There is little transparency or accountability for how those tax expenditures are used or what we get for them. Tax exemptions are granted with the expectation of thousands of jobs and expansion of factories. But they are not held accountable.

It is not that way with the social services budget. Individuals and business executives believe they have the right to an opinion in the spending of the tax dollars that go into the general fund. IDD families have that same right.

Your Campaign Website

<https://www.votepatweber.com/>