

# 2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



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Position Representative

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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?

Since day one of my legislative service, I have met hundreds of people with disabilities from across. Their stories, challenges, frustrations and beauty has lit a spark within me--leading me to pass a bill nearly every session to improve the lives of those with disabilities. For instance, hearing from an elderly woman concerned about what will happen to her adult son with disabilities when she passes away, I passed a bill to allow people to receive a REET tax break if they donate their homes to a support living nonprofit, with the guarantee their child can live out their days in their home.

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

- \* Childcare has been a top priority for me for a number of years. As we seek to increase early learning options for kids 0-5 with disabilities, I am digging into the details of developmental pre-school. How is the money spent by individual school districts to support the kids? Is it being maximized for the student or for the district?
- \* Too many foster youth across our state don't have appropriate, stable living situations. As DCYF works to meet the requirements of a recent settlement around hotel and office stays, the legislature must step up and fund the needed infrastructure, programs and training to meet the needs of kids and foster families. Getting the mental and behavioral health services and housing that is needed are top priorities.
- \* School districts must prevent and address harassment, intimidation and bullying. They also must protect kids from discrimination. When those two interact, there are specific protocols that schools must follow. However, the policies aren't clear, nor well-communicated to families and school personnel. I am working to remedy this which will have a positive impact of students with disabilities.

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?

As a member of the Appropriations or budget Committee in the House, I will work to protect the existing and recently expanded services for people with disabilities. As someone who regularly looks for upstream solutions, I will continue to push for greater investment in early intervention services as well as ongoing ones.

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

I serve as the Chair of the Children, Youth and Families Committee. While developmental disabilities issues no longer fall under the committee's jurisdiction, I haven't stopped focusing on the issues. As a member of the Appropriations Committee as well, it has been an honor to help fight for increases in disability services.

Your Campaign Website

<https://www.electtansenn.org>