

2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Name

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District Number

Representative District 8 position 2

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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?

Yes. Of my 5 children, I have 2 kids with special needs and my brother-in-law has downs syndrome. There's a pretty amazing feeling that comes from creating an environment where they can developmentally grow, be reasonably challenged, and experience joy while doing it. On the other side of it, striving to find that environment is a difficult path that involves a lot of time and hard work. When the environment and resources are unavailable, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and much more effort is required to care for the person.

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

Social programs and skills trainings are an important part of providing a sense of accomplishment and strong mental health for the disabled. In my experience, the privatized programs have provided superior care to that of government programs, but the care is not always affordable. Private businesses not only provide better care, but are more administratively efficient with their resources and more attentive to advocates and care givers. We need more of these wonderful organizations.

We need to provide tax incentives to privatized institutions that will aid the developmentally disabled.
We can incent based on area of need and go where resources are most needed.
We need to ensure education is readily available to those that want to learn more and grow as a care giver.

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?

The economic problem with removing these resources is that the disabled still require care. That care will likely come from the care-giver that needs to be working. This does not help recovery in a recession. Raising taxes also does not aid economic recovery. It makes no sense to remove aid, due to poor economic conditions.

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

Every once in a while, those with no developmental disabilities, experience disability. Sometimes it's only for a short time, but the experience helps us relate and get a window into the life of someone with permanent disability. I've had those experiences. I have a lot of compassion for those with disabilities and their families. Their hard work and dedication is typically overlooked in a society that tends to be catered towards the stereotypical and physically able married couple with 2 children. This is sadly not the mold that most families fit. Simple things like taking 2 kids to sports practice, when one parent, child, or loved one is disabled, become much more difficult when developmental disabilities are involved. We need to do all we can to relieve that burden.

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