

2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Name

Ronni Batchelor

District Number

8

Position (Representative or Senator)

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?

Yes, I have family and friends with IDD. Because of my personal experience with my family members and friends as well my own disabilities, I am a legislative advocate. Because of the lack of consistent progress in our legislative system and our systems of care coupled with the lack of support services, medical and mental health for children and adults with IDD or other disabilities, I became part of a legislative advocacy group working on legislation for "Nothing about us with out us" HB 1802. The bill died this past session, but it's being brought back with a clearer representation of the need for people who are underrepresented and living with IDD/disabilities. This bill's intended audience is the self advocacy community in their voice by their choice. This bill would give people ability to be at the table when legislation is being created and drafted that would impact their lives.

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

Mental/Behavioral and Healthcare, accessibility, Workforce Development, Community Safety and accessibility.

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 am against any cuts for people with IDD or other disabilities!! As an advocate I have worked hard to keep funding in place by testifying against a 15% cut on the table which with federal matching dollars would have made the total cut even higher!! No one with IDD or any disability should be living in poverty!! We all should have the ability to thrive!! I am a person who has lived on sub minimum wage and I've been disabled since the age of 25. I am appalled by the legislative body that continues to discount people who have higher needs and challenges than the able-bodied "normal" thinking public, forcing people to live below the poverty line and not moving that poverty line upward instead of downward, so that people can get and keep services they need to live every day without concerns of losing something that should be never threatened to begin with.

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

I'm in this to fight for what's needed most in our communities, and to support and enhance the lives of our most vulnerable allowing them to thrive.