

2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Name: Alicia Rule

District Number: 42

Position: Representative

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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has an 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?

As a licensed independent social worker and mental health professional, I have worked with people with IDD's throughout my entire career. My interactions with these individuals have contributed greatly to my understanding of many of our social and healthcare programs, and have been a huge reason why I want to be involved in public policy and reforming our physical and mental healthcare systems and on a personal level I have several family members with varying types of IDD's. Advocating for them in many systems has been a frustrating and challenging process that I hope to impact in a positive way for all of us impacted by the challenging systems. We need services that are comprehensive and easily accessible to those who need them.

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 legislative priorities are:

Continue to improve the child welfare system and keep children and families safe

Continue to fight for economic opportunity for all, especially increasing the number of good paying union jobs

Continue to improve our mental health spectrum of services

All of these priorities are directly related to individuals with IDD's. Our child welfare systems are incredibly relevant in the topic of IDD's, both relating to the children and their families. Better systems and programs will help kids with IDD's. It is too easy for disabilities to be masked and overlooked when they collide with these other systems, which leaves these folks behind. I am especially concerned that we are missing an opportunity for folks with IDD's as they age out of our youth services and into adulthood.

Better economic opportunity means equal opportunity for all. Economic growth allows for more jobs for everyone and more robust social programs.

A reformed and improved mental health program helps all of Washington, but is especially to individuals with intellectual disabilities that intersect with our mental health system, making the extra vulnerable.

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?

Creating policy that is inherently inclusive is an important part of protecting these individuals, but I also know that specific programs and systems are necessary to fully meet the needs of this community. I am dedicated to protecting and improving these services in any way possible.

Your Campaign Website

<http://www.votealiciarule.com>