

Candidate Disability Issues Questionnaire

Part One: Support/Oppose

For this section, please mark if you support or oppose the indicated legislation or legislative goals. Please provide a comment clarifying or expanding upon your response.

1. Disability Integration Act (S. 910 / H. R. 2472)

Support

Comment:

2. EMPOWER Care Act (S. 2227 / H. R. 5306)

Support

Comment:

3. ADA Education and Reform Act (H. R. 620)

Support

Comment:

4. Medicaid block spending and per capita systems

Oppose

Comment: I oppose any proposal that would defund, or privatize medicare. I believe that we must expand funding to create a safety net for our nation's most vulnerable.

5. Keeping All Students Safe Act (H. R. 4247)

Support

Comment:

6. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirement for Personal Care Assistants under the 21st Century Cures Act (H. R. 34)

Comment: In the 115th Congress, HR 34 reads as the Safe Students Act that repealed the prohibition on guns, which I am opposed to.

Part Two: Open Ended Questions

For this section, please respond to the questions with a specific answer, including details for your plan to address these disability issues.

- 1. In the Olmstead v. L.C. (1999) decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states are required to eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Do you feel the state is doing what it can do to fully implement this ruling? If not, what measures does NJ need to take?*

I believe we should be holding our state to the highest possible standard at all times. We should ensure that we have the most up to date information, and the newest technology and resources available, ensuring that we are protecting any, and everybody when it comes to services guaranteeing the best quality of life.

- 2. If elected, what will you do to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the planning and implementation of emergency preparedness efforts on the state, county, and local levels?*

I've always believed that in order to provide the most inclusive pieces of public policy, we must be inclusive of everyone. No matter ability, religion, gender, orientation, or race. We all deserve to have a seat at the table.

- 3. Medicaid eligibility and programmatic requirements now create barriers for individuals with disabilities seeking to enter or return to the workplace because they cannot access needed supports, assistive technology, and services. Do you support initiatives that would allow workers with disabilities to continue to work past age 65, maintain their eligibility from state to state, and carry their Medicaid benefits into private employment settings? How would you work with the private sector to address the critical independent living supports that many private insurance programs do not cover for people with disabilities?*

I would support any initiatives that would allow workers with disabilities to continue to live productive lives, in order to support themselves and their families, with no unnecessary barriers.

4. *Former Governor Christie shunted Medicaid funding for pure mental illness into co-occurring programs. As a result, those with serious mental illness but no substance abuse issues have lost services. What will you do to fill the gap and stabilize mental health funding in NJ?*

I support the current administration, and Governor Murphy's work to repeal the destructive actions of then Governor Chris Christie. I will work with Governor Murphy to ensure that those with serious mental health issues have the support and resources they need and deserve.

5. *According to estimates from the Corporation for Supportive Housing, New Jersey has a need for approximately 27,265 units of supportive housing, the 9th highest need in the nation. How would you propose to increase the inventory of safe, accessible, affordable housing for people with disabilities?*

I've been a champion on the issue of affordable and accessible housing for all people including for people with disabilities. I believe our state is currently working to fill the gap, caused by the supreme court case.

6. *What would you do to expand access to affordable and accessible transportation for people with disabilities, especially in rural areas?*

I believe this area is a perfect opportunity for a partnership between federal and state funding. In creating sustainable appropriations revenue line items that can modernize our current transportation systems, expand into areas like rural and suburban areas that need transportation, as well as increasing our infrastructure to benefit all people including those with disability who need accessible and reliable transportation.

7. *Do you support providing or increasing funding for new, accessible voting systems to replace the first- generation accessible voting systems that have outlived their usefulness?*

As a member of congress, on both the homeland security committee, as well as oversight and government reform, I have a responsibility to ensure that our democracy is protected. Therefore, myself and my colleges will continue to make sure our voting system is protected, first and foremost.

8. *The disability community lives by the South African proverb “Nothing about us, without us”, meaning that individuals with disabilities should be at the center of decision-making on issues affecting our community. Have you hired and incorporated PWD as part of your political team? What are you doing to make sure qualified people with disabilities will be a part of your political team and, if elected, a part of your staff?*

I believe that everyone deserves a seat at the table. I have been a staunch advocate for equal opportunity for all, especially in the workplace. This is a government of, by, and for the people. I believe everyone should have a voice, and my doors are always open.