



NJ CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

In our continuing efforts to bring disability issues to the forefront of campaigns for elected office, we have prepared a candidates' questionnaire. The questionnaire, developed by disabled advocates, contains 13 questions that address disability- related issues. By filling out this questionnaire, you will help voters with disabilities make informed decisions in the upcoming midterm elections. In order for us to have ample time to distribute your responses, please return your completed questionnaire by **OCTOBER 30th 2018**. Please contact ctonks@adaail.org if you have any questions.

PART ONE: SUPPORT/OPOSE

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
- Oppose

Comment:

As a physician I'm in total support of the D&A, all too often I have seen people warehoused to institutional care. One of my patients, a 25y.o woman with MS was devastated when forced to leaving home and died shortly thereafter. With some care I believe she'd still be happy & alive!

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

- Support
- Oppose

Comment:

This act is long overdue to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person program. As with my support of the ADA the right of people to receive support for home care is essential.

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

Support

Oppose

Comment:

As an A.L.U. supporter I have been made aware of the problems with HR 620. This Act prevents people with disabilities from immediately going to court to enforce their rights and press for timely removal of the barrier that impedes access.

4. Medicaid block spending and per capita systems

Support

Oppose

Comment:

A per capita cap could permit states to impose a work requirement and terminate people who are deemed non-compliant. This could result in people with serious barriers to employment going without health coverage.

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

Support

Oppose

Comment:

As Rep. Morris Rodgers stated regarding H.R. 4247: "As parents when we send our children to school, we expect they will be safe from danger. And when the very people we entrust with our children's well-being inflict the type of abuse, it's not just the victims and their families who suffer. It hurts their classmates who witness these terrifying events."

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

- Support
 Oppose

Comment:

The support by the pharmaceutical manufacturers and opposed by consumer organizations makes me suspicious. My biggest concern is HR 34 fast tracks drug approvals and permits the use of experimental medicines without need for informed consent.

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?

The diagnosis of schizophrenia should not negate a patient's right for treatment in the community. More significantly, patients held in mental hospitals as vertical prisoners should be released for support and care in the community. In my experience of visiting a patient in Greystone Psychiatric Hospital a discharged patient has no hope of community care.

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?

It is obvious that people with disabilities need to be serving on committees determining emergency preparedness efforts. No one knows better than the disabled what their needs would be in an emergency.

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 totally support initiatives allowing workers with disabilities to work past age 65 and the 2 other listed proposals. Private insurers should not be allowed to operate in states where they deny coverage to people with disabilities. Their excuse is most often the expense of such support but in reality it would reduce

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?

Our new Governor, Phil Murphy should be asked and if necessary pressured to reverse the shunted funding.

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?

Laws must be enacted to eliminate housing discrimination, promote policies that foster open, accessible and inclusive communities. The other urgent action must be a moratorium on home foreclosures.

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

I would want to meet with the affected people in rural areas and learn their needs from them. Then working out the budget for those needs. Finally working to get the necessary monies approved.

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?

Since the largest political group in the USA according to the NY Times 9/13/16 - "For every 10 US adults 6 vote and 4 don't", it is critical for Democracy to facilitate voting by all citizens.

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?

My campaign would welcome people who are disabled. When elected to Congress I pledge to employ disabled people as a vibrant part of my staff.

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