

**Name:**

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**Email**

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**District:**

36<sup>th</sup>

**Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:**

State representative position 1

**1. Are you an incumbent?**

No

**2. If yes, what policy or budget item that supports people with disabilities who are employed or seeking employment are you most proud of advancing during your tenure?**

Not applicable

**3. If you are not an incumbent, what will you do to support individuals with disabilities find and keep jobs and contribute to our economy?**

I will encourage policies and education that match abilities with things that need doing.

**4. Do you personally know anyone with an intellectual/developmental disability? I/DD includes people who have cognitive disabilities such as Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, etcetera.**

Yes, I have many people on the autism spectrum in my life, went to high school with two boys with Cerebral Palsy and have a very good childhood friend with a cognitive disability.

**5. Have you ever worked alongside anyone with a developmental or intellectual disability?**

Not in a professional capacity.

**6. Nearly 80% of people with a developmental disability are not employed or are underemployed. What can you do in your role to address this issue?**

In my capacity as a state representative I could support and promote programs that train people with disabilities to do jobs for which they are well-suited. Without very supportive families I know how difficult it can be for a person with such a disability to navigate the systems in place that could help them advance their living situation. Mobility, cognitive and communication challenges can be overcome with the right interventions. Outreach and accessibility are key and I would work to make these readily available.

**7. Many people with developmental and intellectual disabilities who do work are worried about losing critical lifeline benefits such as medical care and social security because of earnings. Will you commit to working with CEA and other stakeholders to bridge this gap in coverage for people who want to work?**

Yes, I am very committed to helping anyone who wants to work find a job and the benefits that they would receive were they not impaired.

**8. It is estimated that 12,560 people with developmental disabilities receive NO paid services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. If you are elected, what will you do to ensure services for all?**

I would figure out why this is so; if they are legally eligible there must be something keeping them from accessing the system. We need to make sure all who need help receive it.

**9. If elected and during your campaign, will you commit to meeting with businesses in your community and across the state who have benefited from having a diverse work force which benefits their bottom line?**

Definitely

**10. Community Employment Alliance members work hard every day to secure and retain competitive employment, increased wages, benefits and job training for people with disabilities. The impact of community employment on individuals and families is substantial. During your campaign, will you commit to meeting with families whose sons and daughters have benefited from employment services and hear their stories of inclusion, autonomy, and independence?**

Yes, this very much interests me.

**11. Is there any other information pertaining to this topic that you would like your constituents with developmental disabilities, their friends and their family members, to know about you?**

My husband and daughter are dyslexic. My husband received no interventions or help with this learning disability while going through school and I've seen how this has put him decades behind his peers in career growth and self-esteem. I have been advocating for my daughter since first grade and reading all I can about what assistive tech and educational programs are best suited to help her function in a world full of text that is difficult for her to access. This is a relatively minor disability but getting the help and finding our way has been very difficult and time-consuming. I have empathy for anyone who is "wired" differently and must find a non-traditional path through the system.

**12. Do you have any questions about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that we can help you with?**

No, I have some formal training in this area from years as a Girl Scout Leader and research done on special education in the public schools. I have also worked as a licensed massage therapist and we had curriculum devoted to learning to work with differently-abled clients.

**Thank you for remitting your candidate questionnaire. Your feedback will be posted on our website exactly as you have written it. Your responses will help inform thousands of constituents in your district and across the state of your positions on these very important issues. Your responses will not be edited. If you have questions or if you need help completing this form, please call or email Executive Director, Adrienne Stuart, at the contact information below. Thank you for your time.**