

Name:

Jamie Smith

Email

votejamiesmith@gmail.com

District:

25

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?**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 support making sure we have strong schools that educate all students to prepare them for the future so all individuals regardless of disabilities will be prepared for the future and have a strong base. I encourage businesses to hire a diverse workforce and incentivize hiring individuals with disabilities. As well as making sure work places are IDEA compliant.

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.

As a school teacher I work with individuals with a range of different developmental disabilities every day, in college I worked in catering with a man with down syndrome, my college resident director has cerebral palsy, and my nephew is autistic. Through teaching, working alongside of, and with these individuals I know that they have abilities far beyond what the general public tends to give them credit for. They may learn differently, or take more time to get a task done, but they have the ability to work alongside anyone and offer great gifts to the work environment.

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

In college I worked in catering with a man with down syndrome and I have worked with an individual with autism in college on a project, and I worked for my resident director as a front desk worker and she has cerebral palsy.

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?

Education, homelessness and affordable housing, and increasing living wage jobs are currently top issues that need addressed to help individuals with disabilities. We must make sure we give a top education to all students including students with developmental disabilities. Homelessness is on the rise in my areas and I have had multiple students that were living with their families in hotels or out of their cars, and much of it is caused due to the lack of affordable housing in the area. It is hard to maintain a job when housing is insecure and unfortunately for many of our families with students with developmental disabilities the costs of caring for the kids and the lack of job opportunities for those with developmental disabilities means that many of these families are housing insecure and we must make sure they have a safe and consistent place to call home. Finally many with developmental disabilities are underemployed and we can work at the state level to incentivize businesses to hire individuals with disabilities and make sure that work environments are

accommodating.

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

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 will work to streamline the process to help individuals overcome undue burdens and hurdles the process creates.

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?

Yes

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

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?

It is the job of state legislators to make sure Washington works for all of its residents. That means we must have education that enables students to be prepared for college, the military, and the workforce; we must make sure we provide for the mental health and healthcare; that we boost businesses and help workers find jobs, and this applies to all Washington residents, including those with both with and without disabilities.

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

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.