

Name:

Lemuel W. Charleston

Email

meenue@hotmail.com

District:

34th

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

Washington State Senator

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?

N/A

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?

As a disabled veteran I plan on the introduction of disability language that prohibits succinct discrimination against ADA people. I also plan to initiate language that would increase the amount of ADA parking spaces at public and private businesses additionally I would like to introduce language that would limit the distance an ADA person has to walk to get to a business or a position at their workplace.

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.

I have a disability as does my wife parents siblings and inlaws

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

I have worked with numerous people who have various types of disabilities.

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?

I would institute policy create language that would emulate the ones in the Netherlands as they have an extremely effective disability program.

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?

I would work tirelessly to remove the threat of unemployment due to a disability and work to ensure economic and workplace social and economic gains are never diminished.

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 work with my colleagues on both sides of the isle to enact policy that would direct the DDA to develop strategies to maximize cost effective options.

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?

I have every intention to improve the work conditions but also the quality of life as much as reasonably possible for disabled people to the extent they we gain more independence and be able to take more control over their own lives.

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?

I would not only commit to hearing their stories but also encourage them to expound on those stories for a public who since the 1800's are still under the institutionalized impression that people with disabilities are somehow less productive or valuable than those in their workplace or any where else for that matter.

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?

As a former United States Marine and member of two veteran affiliated organizations who address disabilities full time I will work to ensure that all the voices of the disabled are hear and understood by all who need to hear this quiet situation/

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

None

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.

Name:

Lois Schipper

Email

info@loisschipperforstatesenate.com

District:

34th

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

State Senate

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 would absolutely sponsor and support legislation to maintain and expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to find and keep jobs that greatly contribute to our economy.

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.

Throughout my career, I have worked with and helped to support individuals with cognitive disabilities. Currently I manage a program that works with non-English speaking patients and families at Seattle Children's hospital to help them navigate health care for children with complex medical needs. A balance of the work we do supports families raising children with cognitive and other disabilities.

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

Yes. I worked for King County for 25 years which has traditionally had a large number of supported employees working alongside staff in county departments. I have valued my interactions with these incredibly motivated and effective employees. They have helped greatly over the years support our work and help us to meet our goals

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?

I would be interested in understanding ways to expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to be employed. I would start by meeting with constituent organizations like yours to understand opportunities and barriers and then work to support funding, programming and legislation to increase opportunities, while including representatives from the business and potential employer community in the discussion of options.

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 would want to study the DDA guidelines and see what it would take to expand services to these uncovered individuals.

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?

I would greatly look forward to that!!!!

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?

We have a family member who is now in her mid 40's and has had the opportunity and experience of supported employment since she finished her high school education. She is SO proud of the work she does and has been highly valued and appreciated in all of the settings where she has worked.

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

NO

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Name:

Joe Nguyen

Email

hello@meetjoenguyen.com

District:

34th Legislative District

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

State Senator

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 am in support of "Employment First" policies that will prioritize employment as the preferred option for working people. I like the model in Alaska, which via state law, establishes the primary objective of vocational training, vocational rehabilitation and employment placement for a person with a disability is to help the person become gainfully employed in an integrated workplace where people with disabilities work with and alongside individuals without disabilities. Establishes that the primary objective of transition services for a child with a disability who is over 15 years old as part of a special education program is to help the child become gainfully employed in an integrated workplace or enrolled in postsecondary education.

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

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

Yes

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?

As stated above, I believe in implementing policies via state law that prioritize will prioritize employment as the preferred option for working people. We need to better fund programs that will provide vocational training, and also continue to support programs in Washington State that help with providing transportation to and from work for people with disabilities.

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 am in support of HB2613, that seeks to get these types of vocational training programs coordinated with OSPI. This is just a start though. The folks that are not of school age need attention to ensure paid employment as well. We need to legislate with the intent of getting all 12,560 people in fair-wage paying jobs that receive benefits. We need to follow models in other states that have been more successful in implementing these types of policies.

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

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, please email me at joe@meetjoenguyen and I would be honored to spend time discussing these critical issues.

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?

This issue of particular importance to me. My cousin lived with a developmental disability, and my family was his primary caregiver his entire life and he lived with us. I am deeply committed to helping ensure that these issues are given the attention they deserve.

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

What barriers to participation in the legislative process to you observe currently? How can we improve processes of government information dissemination to ensure you are getting access you need?

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