

Name:

Alan Fahnestock

Email

alan@fahnestock4u.com

District:

Leg Dist 12,

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

State Representative, Position 2

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 an incumbent

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?

Everything I can. Laws with regard to people with disabilities have made huge strides since I was a kid, but there's still a long way to go to ensure ALL can realize their potential.

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 was diagnosed with "mental retardation" in elementary school, while being one of the best students academically. Had it been somewhat later, I probably would have been diagnosed as somewhere on the autism spectrum. Since then, I have received a couple of advanced degree beings, learned to speak several languages, and risen fairly high in the corporate world. As it happens, after I left home for college, my mother became a Special Ed teacher. I currently am an occasional care-giver for my brother, who suffers from both MS and Parkinsons.

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

Occasionally, but not for many years.

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?

More than has been done. I believe that the object of the "game" is to enable everyone to get education and training that will empower them to demonstrate their competence in some manner, and earn a livable wage. I'm not an expert in this field (or any field, really), but I am prepared to listen to those who are.

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?

There has to be a safety net for everyone. As long as we make people walk a tight-rope, it will have to be a big one, and continue to grow. We need universal, affordable access to medical care, livable wages, and a system of subsidies for those who are not able to support themselves, whether because they can't work or because they can only work part-time. Other countries have been able to make this work far better than we have, so it is not impossible.

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?

Frankly, I'm new and don't know what I might be able to do. I am inclined to suspect that some of these people are not aware of what the State can do for them, or aren't able to complete the appropriate application processes for one reason or another. Others may simply be mis-judged in the process: I have known people who seemed absolutely "normal" while suffering from disabilities that made large parts of life practically impossible. There's no panacea: there has to be constant effort to improve the system, and adequate funding.

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?

Absolutely, as feasible: I live in a rather remote area, so logistics are a bit daunting at times.

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?

Same answer.

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?

Just that I will do what I can. I'm committed to changing a system that, at this point, is currently working too much in favor of people who (like me) don't need a lot of help. I'm not sure, at this time, how much I can actually do: it's a huge job that's going to take more than a couple of years, and, sadly, our political arena is tilted heavily against those who want an equitable society. Good intentions aren't very useful, but I'm not in the business of making promises I can't keep.

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

I think that I currently have an adequate handle on the overall issue, and I suspect I can get a good bit of information from your website going forward. If I actually get elected, I'm going to want a ton of information, so as to work toward viable solutions.

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:

C. Keiki Stacy Weigle

Email

KeikiForHouse@gmail.com

District:

12th

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

WA State House of Representatives, Seat 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?

I am not an incumbent.

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?

Having been physically deemed medically disabled since 2008, I have had my own personal battles and challenges on my abilities to be working or not working. Being disabled does not mean we are not valuable and can not contribute to our jobs or economy. I would take steps to insure there are programs and employment opportunities that protect and provide jobs for those with disabilities. To fund such programs, I believe tapping into expansion and upgrading of technology/broadband in our district will create the new business and jobs that will provide increased tax revenues to draw funding from.

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've worked with several individuals in volunteer and community service capacities in Florida, as well as several fellow classmates of my son's while he was at Omak High School.

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?

Repeating my response to Item 3 above to apply it to this question.

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?

Absolutely. Yes, I will work with CEA.

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 to legislate a change to provide services. More importantly, I will be working to secure

universal single payer healthcare with prescription coverage for all would include those with developmental disabilities.

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.

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?

I would like labor unions to also include protections for the disabled moreso in their contract negotiations.

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

Nope. Just keep doing what you are doing to educate and inform, as well as support and protect people with all disabilities.

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.