

**Name:**

Joel McEntire

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**District:**

19

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

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?**

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?**

I will fight to keep the economy strong and dynamic. A larger economy produces more seats at the table of employment where individuals with disabilities can utilize their skills and receive fair and just compensation for their services.

**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, as a teacher, I work regularly with children that deal with intellectual and developmental disability.

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

I do not recall at this time being employed with somebody that experienced a medically certified developmental or intellectual disability.

**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 previously, a strong and growing economy is one in which there is a job available for every individual. I will focus on keeping the economy strong. A strong economy will also increase state revenues that will allow for the funding of job training programs that are already in existence.

**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 personally believe it a tragedy when people are cut off from their productive potential because of policies that retract benefits because of high productivity.

**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 first have to ask why these individuals do not have the services. If it is due to funding, then

remedy is one of funding allocation. If it is due to people not knowing about the services to which they are entitled, these individuals should have their rights made known to them.

**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, I am willing to make this commitment.

**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, I will commit to this. Currently, I am deployed overseas with the United States Marine Corps. I will be returning soon, and I would be willing to fulfill this obligation upon my return.

**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?**

Though nobody in my immediate family suffers from intellectual or developmental disability. I have worked in more than one occupation that cares for these individuals. I know their value to society and in the eyes of God. I will fight to see that they are given a seat at the banquet of the table of opportunity.

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

I do not have any questions at this time.

**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.**