

**Name:**

Christine Kilduff

**Email**

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**District:**

28th LD

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

State House Representative, Pos. 2

**1. Are you an incumbent?**

Yes.

**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 proud to be the prime sponsor of the Washington State ABLE Act, HB 2323 (2016). This legislation allows individuals with disabilities to invest in tax-free savings account to save for their future without being disqualified from SSI, Medicaid or state public assistance benefits. Personal testimony from community members helped to point out just how vital these savings accounts are to helping disabled individuals and their families build a more prosperous future.

**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?**

N/A

**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.**

My sister's juvenile onset of epilepsy has radically changed her life. She still greatly struggles with it today and this life-changing illness has impacted our entire family. It is a disease that has continued to progress and precludes my sister from working. As a result, she is not independent and my 81-year old father is her primary caretaker in the home in which we were raised. Candidly, I worry about them both and how she will fare in this world without the help of my dad. I live on the other side of the country and when not running for office or in session, I travel often to help my sister and father. Another sister who lives locally supports them as well. This disability has so substantially altered my sister's life, and I wish she did not have to deal with this enormous life challenge.

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

At the Attorney General's Office one of my colleagues had limited mobility and he used a wheelchair. He is an incredible attorney. One of my first summer jobs as a teenager involved supervising, coaching, and leading a group of developmentally disabled peers performing full-time park maintenance. It was fantastic teen job and great learning experience.

**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 have sponsored HB 1304 and HB 2639 which address the challenge of unemployment and underemployment for persons with developmental and other disabilities. Changes in policy and increased investments are two key ways to address this issue and I will continue to fight for approaches that value employment, puts person-centered planning first, and that makes smart and strategic investments in programs that promote employment, independence, effective transition planning, and a full life in the community.

**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 am absolutely committed to working with CEA and other stakeholders to bridge this gap and I think my legislative records demonstrates such a commitment.

**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?**

The no-paid-services (NPS) caseload must be tackled. There were some recent improvements in the caseload numbers, but there is a lot more work to do. Families are suffering and a firm consistent budget commitment is needed to address this big backlog. I am committed to advocating again for more 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?**

I am always happy to meet with businesses that employ persons with disabilities. Last summer, I had a chance to meet with a University Place constituent who works at Home Depot and see what a typical work day is like for her. I very much welcome future opportunities to visit with employers in my community and learn more about employment for persons with disabilities.

**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?**

The bulk of my time campaigning is spent talking to members of my district at their doors. Through this process I often meet individuals and their families who are impacted by intellectual and developmental disabilities, including employment. In addition, I so appreciate hearing from advocates with CEA, SAW, DDC, ARC, and PC2 about their successes and challenges with employment and the community. When in Olympia, I have an open door policy that allows constituents and stakeholder to share ideas and air concerns about funding, new policy ideas and how current legislation is affecting them.

**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 will continue to focus on policy and funding solutions for individuals with developmental and other disabilities next session. This area is a passion of mine and there is so much more work to do.

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

My door is always open and as I prepare for the 2019 legislative session, I will be reaching out with questions and to seek feedback about policy ideas.

**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.**

**Name:**

Mari Leavitt

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**District:**

28th LD

**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?**

As former deputy director of Pierce County's Human Services, I was proud to be support our developmental disabilities team and work to infuse funds into the community through tremendous development disability partners and organizations.

**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 college administrator for over 22 years, I've worked help people from all walks of life reach their full potential, find jobs, and contribute to the economy. As former Deputy Director of Pierce County Human Services, I valued the incredible work of partner organizations and will continue to advocate for funding and much needed resources and policies that allow those organizations to grow and provide incentives to employers to connect and partner as well.

**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. In my career, I've had the opportunity to work alongside colleagues with developmental and intellectual opportunities.

**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 love to meet with your organization and learn about your legislative priorities. I would support legislation to help employ people with developmental disabilities and continue to support the efforts of partner organizations that work towards best practice and helping individuals be successful.

**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 firmly believe everyone should have access to the resources they need and will work to ensure that when elected. I think it's critical that DDA and municipalities work with our community partners who are in the trenches to determine best use of resources and where they can be most effective.

**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'd love to meet with folks as we strive to help all persons with disabilities and their families be successful.

**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 be honored to earn your endorsement and support. I want to be your voice in Olympia.

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

Not 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.**