

**Name:**

Amy Walen

**Email**

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**District:**

48th Legislative District

**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?**

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?**

Under my leadership as Mayor of Kirkland, I am proud that we passed mandatory inclusionary housing. As State Representative I will continue to support policies that help people of all abilities have equal access to opportunities for education and employment.

**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, my friend's son has a developmental disability. He is attending University of Washington with assistance in living arrangements and transportation.

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

No

**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?**

We should educate employers about the pool of talent available to them, and provide resources so they have assistance in providing accommodations for employees with developmental disabilities. I would also like to explore incentives for hiring more individuals with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities so as to promote inclusion in the workforce. In a similar way that the state of Washington prioritizes hiring minority and women owned businesses.

**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. No person should lose medical coverage because they want to be active in the workforce.

**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 support increased funding for the Developmental Disabilities Administration, including expansion of services so that all people with developmental disabilities have access to services needed to lead a fulfilling life.

**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 own a business myself and would like to learn more about how we can employ persons of all abilities.

**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?**

Of course. I would love to meet with families who have benefited from employment services and hear stories of inclusion, autonomy, and independence.

**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 care about the challenges faced by working families. Challenges are particularly difficult for families whose members have different abilities. These are among our most vulnerable community members, and they need our support to have a full and fulfilling life.

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

I would like to learn more about how we connect employment opportunities to the talented persons with intellectual and developmental 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.**

**Name:**

Patty Kuderer

**Email**

[patty.kuderer@gmail.com](mailto:patty.kuderer@gmail.com)

**District:**

48<sup>th</sup>

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

State Senator, 48th District

**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?**

During the 2017 session, I prime sponsored legislation to increase support and resources for hard-of-hearing students and improve educational outcomes that was signed into law. This past session, my bill to create the equity-based Washington World Fellows program to give all students, irrespective of their physical abilities, an opportunity to study abroad, was signed into law. I am very proud of both of those policies, and want to see more done to support those with disabilities.

**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 an incumbent.

**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.**

Most people know my daughter was born extremely premature and that during her younger years she had developmental delays as a result. My family was lucky, however, as she overcame virtually all of her issues and today lives independently and productively. That was not the case for others that I saw struggling with finding the necessary resources to help their children, including healthcare, education and other special services. And then there is the issue of safety. In my profession as a discrimination attorney and as a mom, I know it is a sad fact that our developmentally disabled community is subject to a significant amount of bullying and discrimination. We must do more to help support our differently abled community and their families, and that starts with truly understanding their needs and collaborating on the best paths forward.

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

Yes, I used to work at a sheltered workshop with people of varying developmental and intellectual abilities.

**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 will continue to support fully funding education, including special education, for all of our students.

**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 look forward to working with CEA and other stakeholders to address this issue.

**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 waiting list for services is sadly quite long. In meeting with the head of DSHS, I was told the lack of funding is the main issue here. This is and remains a chronic problem with all social services. Nonetheless, we need to do better. We can start by fixing our broken tax structure and creating a public co-op bank that will actually make money for the state without raising taxes.

**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 grew up hearing that where you invest your time tells what your priorities are. My life has been dedicated to helping those who have been marginalized, who are poor and simply need a helping hand up, especially when that involves education. I have only been in the Legislature just shy of 3 years, and during that short time I have already had 2 bills to help our students with disabilities. During the 2017 session, I prime sponsored legislation to increase support and resources for hard-of-hearing students and improve educational outcomes that was signed into law. This past session, my bill to create the equity-based Washington World Fellows program to give all students, irrespective of their physical abilities, an opportunity to study abroad, was signed into law. I believe I am the best candidate to stand up for our most vulnerable Washingtonians.

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

Yes, I would like to know from your perspective, what is the number one issue facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that you want the State Legislature to focus on first?

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