

Name:

Debra Blodgett

Email

electdebbie4house@gmail.com

District:

1st Legislative District

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

State House 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?

One of my passions is helping the disabled community work within the business community, school districts and municipalities. There are many able-bodied citizens with disabilities who are wanting to fit into and earn wages to help supplement their other benefits. I will be an advocate for your organization.

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 granddaughter is high functioning autistic and through the education system in Utah where she lives, they will help place them in jobs and to help them learn life skills. My good friend's daughter also has a learning disability who is currently working a couple of hours a day and loves the ability to be around people.

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

No, personally I have not.

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 work with the business community on the education aspects of having disabled employees. There are jobs in most companies that can accompany a developmentally disabled person. I would also work to give employers an incentive to hire the developmentally disabled.

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 will work to ensure the benefits are afforded to those who are the most in need.

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?

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?

My granddaughter is developmentally disabled. She is always trying her hardest to help others with disabilities and loves to work. She should be given the opportunity to fit into a job which she can handle at her level and receive a decent wage. I will work within our community to help other families and family members to achieve job opportunities and ensure they receive the necessary benefits afforded to them.

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

Currently, what companies within the 1st Legislative District are offering disabled citizens the ability to work?

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:

Matt Seymour

Email

vote4mattseymour@gmail.com

District:

1st Legislative District

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

State House of Representatives, 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 am jobs based. I like working with employers to identify positions within their company where people can flourish who; have a physical disability, a mental disability, lack of experience, etc...

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 have several friends for years. I was out Ballroom dancing with John last night.

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?

Once again, it is about encouraging employers to identify position that are within the capacity of an I/DD and hire them.

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. It is very complicated, but I will constantly strive for improvement.

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 continue to seek a solution that will include everyone.

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! Absolutely.

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 love success stories. It helps in educating employers of the abilities of I/DD employees

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 am a very loving, inclusive person. I understand that every person has a unique skill set, and often hidden talents. As I get to know individuals I discover their internal greatness, that bubbles out.

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

No "questions". I am available to help.

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