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Q1 Candidate's Name

Christopher Belt

Q2 Candidate's District

57th Senate District

Q3 Will you support closure of any State Operated Developmental Centers and shift corresponding resources toward integrated, community-based living options? **Yes**

Q4 Would you support legislation to eliminate the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities in Illinois? **Yes**

Q5 Do you support per-beneficiary funding caps in the Illinois Medicaid system? **No**

Q6 Should Illinois Medicaid and SNAP benefits have a mandatory work component? **No**

Q7 Would you advocate raising Medicaid reimbursement rates for home-based nursing services? **Yes**

Q8 Do you support a fair (graduated) income tax? **Yes**

Q9 Will you demand improved disability access to the State Capitol complex and General Assembly, including but not limited to a formal reasonable accommodation request process for public proceedings, provision of key materials in alternate formats, and captioning of floor proceedings? **Yes**

Candidate's Questionnaire 2018

Q10 What will you do to ensure people with disabilities, who identify as members of other marginalized communities (e.g. black/brown, LGBTQ, immigrant, etc.) know they are welcome to live and pursue their full potential in Illinois? In other words, how can you address systemic oppression against multiply marginalized disabled people?

I will always support anti-discrimination policies throughout the state. It is very important to me that those who have complaints, be able to address their concerns in a timely manner. And I will always make myself available to those who need help.

Q11 How will you ensure a free and appropriate public education for Illinois students with disabilities?

It is our duty and responsibility that all of our children get the best education possible, free, through the secondary level. We cannot discriminate against any of our children.

Q12 How will you work to expand affordable, accessible, integrated housing options in Illinois?

I will work on legislation that allows the state to subsidize organizations like Access Living. They coordinate several programs to connect people with housing. We also need to ensure the resources are there for people to find out about different programs available to them.

Q13 What would you do to make Illinois more compliant with the Ligas, Williams, and Colbert Consent Decrees?

I fully support allowing seniors to move out of nursing homes to more independent, community-based settings more tailored to their needs. I will support legislation to ensure we are addressing the needs of our most vulnerable populations.

Q14 How will you play a role in making business accessible to all customers with disabilities?

I will work to expand access to businesses for our citizens with disabilities. We need to ensure that all businesses and public areas are ADA compliant.

Q15 What will you do to provide full and equal access to public transportation in Illinois?

I will work closely with IDOT to ensure they have the resources they need to ensure all of our methods of public transportation are equal to all of Illinois residents. We also need to work with various businesses to ensure they are addressing the needs of those with disabilities.

Q16 How can wages for Illinois' Personal Assistants, Direct Support Professionals, Community Care Program and Homemaker service providers be improved and/or stabilized?

I believe in raising the minimum wage in Illinois to \$15 an hour. Once we have raised the minimum wage, it will make it easier to address other wages. We also need a yearly, balanced budget. Going three years without one put a strain on a lot of people and industries throughout Illinois. We need to ensure that this never happens again.

Candidate's Questionnaire 2018

Q17 Illinois has 19,000+ residents with disabilities on the PUNS (Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services) waiting list. Thousands more are waiting for DON (Determination of Need) assessments to become eligible for home and community-based care. What concrete steps will you support to reduce these backlogs and improve Illinois' laggard status (we rank #47) when it comes to home-based disability services for eligible Illinoisans?

We need to make sure that our state puts a priority on those who need help the most. Illinois needs to address this problem, and come up with ways to reduce the amount of people on the waiting list.

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