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Q1 Candidate's Name

Jill Blair

Q2 Candidate's District

88th

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 fight for dignity and opportunity for all marginalized people. I have been endorsed by Equality Illinois PAC and Citizen Action Illinois among other organizations because of my commitment to social and economic justice for all. I'm aware that those who are members of two or more marginalized groups are at a particular disadvantage and I will seek input from members of these groups on legislation.

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

Education is my top priority. Fair funding for all students in all schools is a constitutional responsibility of the state, and I will work to ensure the state lives up to that responsibility.

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

The recent report on poverty from Heartland Alliance shows that housing costs are among the top burdens for those that live at the economic margins and accessible housing is an even bigger challenge for those who have disabilities. We need to work on improving housing subsidies and requiring that new apartment developments include an appropriate number of accessible units.

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

One of the most effective things we could do would be to create a flexible long-term care system for all. Improving the home healthcare system is among my top priorities. There needs to be adequate funding to ensure home health workers are paid a fair wage equivalent to the value of the work they perform. This would lead to more stability in the system which is essential to ensuring those who receive care at home are working with individuals they trust. We also need to be sure the system allows flexibility so that individuals can live in nursing homes or other institutions when necessary and can receive care at home when preferred and possible. Individuals should also be able to easily transition in and out of institutions settings according to their medical needs and not the mandates of the funding system.

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

The state needs to provide adequate funding for municipalities to perform construction and rehab work to bring developments to code. Too often, the money allocated from the state is insufficient and municipalities end up choosing to do work that has no ADA implications, leaving older buildings and developments non-compliant. The reality is if the construction work is never started on these sites, then they don't have to meet accessibility requirements so they are pushed to the bottom of the list. It should be the other way around with the oldest buildings and developments at the top of the list so we can make all businesses accessible.

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

Increased funding is required and legislation has to be written so that accessibility is required for public transportation.

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

See my answer for #13. We need to provide adequate funding to ensure wages are commensurate with the work performed. Those caring for our loved ones shouldn't be living on the edge of poverty.

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?

Increased funding to ensure we have adequate staffing levels to decrease the backlog and ensure assessments are performed in a timely and professional manner.
