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Q1 Candidate's Name

Sean Casten

Q2 Candidate's District

6th Congressional District

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

Respondent skipped this question

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

Respondent skipped this question

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?

While, many of the matters raised in this questionnaire are state issues and I am running to serve at the federal level, I want you to know that I strongly support efforts to include people with disabilities in our society. We need to make a greater effort to ensure that all people with disabilities are welcome and to reject efforts to marginalize them for any reason. Everyone has a right to chart his or her own path to independent living, and government programs should support those efforts. Children with disabilities need a free and appropriate public education. I have friends for whom this is a central issue for their children, both during their school-age years and beyond when they no longer qualify for state and federal aid, so I know it can be a challenge. Discrimination should not be accepted in education, housing, transportation, employment, or healthcare, and the relevant court rulings should be enforced. I look forward to working with Illinois' Centers for Independent Living to help make that more and more a reality. At the federal level, I would oppose all attempts to dismantle protections for people with pre-existing conditions, any cuts to Medicaid, and would support any and all "liberation legislation", such as an Equality Act.

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

This is a job which really needs to be tackled by the state - Illinois needs to seriously reconsider how we are funding our schools. At the federal level, any education reform bill I would support would need to include provisions for disabled students, and should ensure that everyone has access to an education at a level set by their mental age, rather than being arbitrarily removed once they reach a stipulated birth age.

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

This is another problem that can best be dealt with at the state level but would look forward to provide any federal support necessary .

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

This is another problem that can best be dealt with at the state level but would look forward to provide any federal support necessary.

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

As a congressman, I would oppose any effort to attack the ADA - extremely important legislation that has not been sufficiently protected in Congress.

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

This is another issue which is definitely best dealt with at the state level, but I - again - would fight to protect the ADA and its provisions against transport discrimination.

Candidate's Questionnaire 2018

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

This is another problem that can best be dealt with at the state level but would look forward to provide any federal support necessary.

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?

Though this is undeniably an issue for the Illinois state government, I would encourage them to commit to more funding to deal with the backlog as quickly as possible.
