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Q1 Candidate's Name

Tom Cullerton

Q2 Candidate's District

23rd State Senate

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? **Respondent skipped this question**

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?

To ensure all people are safe and welcome in Illinois, including disabled people from marginalized communities, funds should be directed to establishing safe and accessible facilities in communities with significant marginalized populations. Mental health and counseling services should also be made available to all people.

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

We need to increase funding to public schools to provide accessible facilities, including elevators, wheelchair ramps, railings, playground equipment.

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

We will need to provide funding to group homes and community-based living facilities and shift away from only institutional care facilities and ensure more affordable housing for all.

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

Many people with disabilities would prefer to remain in their homes and be as independent as possible, but the state invests in institutional care. To comply with the decrees, we must fully fund home/community-based community services.

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

We must demand compliance with the ADA in all settings, and if necessary take further steps in Illinois, to make sure all businesses are accessible to customers with all disabilities.

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

We should allocate money to transportation services like CTA, Metra and bus systems so they can continue to make train stops wheelchair accessible and buses ramp-accessible.

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

We should raise the state minimum wage to \$15/hour and provide benefits to home/community care professionals, who can make as little as \$10/hour.

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 should allocate for a fully-funded home/community care program in the budget and streamline the process for DON assessments to prevent huge backlogs.
