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Q1 Candidate's Name

Mary Edly-Allen

Q2 Candidate's District

State Representative District 51

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 support legislation that would strengthen discrimination protections in housing, workplace environments, schools, transportation, and advocate for funding quality services.

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

I believe there should be a substantial increase in the number of Parent Information and Training Centers in our state, which offer support in learning about IDEA principles. We need teachers to understand their obligation to ensure families have access to IDEA information. Better communication strategies, more social workers, and more training for administrators are needed in public schools.

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

Actively decrease the wavier options given to real estate developers to "buy out" affordable housing units which results in fewer affordable, accessible units in Illinois communities.

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

I researched information on these decrees because I did not know about them. I strongly support dissemination and training efforts to educate families, individuals with disabilities, and advocates on the elements of the decrees with respect to eligibility and choices for services. All of these programs must be given in the individual's natural language.

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

By keeping an open dialogue with business owners and employees with whom I interact, I will seek their input on accessibility issues. Furthermore, I will gather sources of positive solutions and share those ideas with similar businesses.

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

Public awareness campaigns, in multiple social media formats, need to be expanded in local communities and across the state so that the general public gains a real sense of the barriers people with disabilities face with regard to access. I support legislation at the state level to seek increased funding and incentives to municipalities to achieve better access.

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

Research how other states meet funding needs that provide fair wages to support personnel. I will encourage leadership in both houses to support wage increases.

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?

This statistic is shocking and appalling. One step would be to increase personnel qualified to complete these assessments and advocate for this step in both houses of the legislature. Bring the seriousness of this situation to the public's awareness by promoting an investigative report that appears in the Chicago Tribune, New York Times, and a national broadcast radio program like NPR. Another step is to have individuals advocate for themselves by going to legislators in Springfield and revealing the dire status of the waiting list.
