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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 17, 2018 4:08:26 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 17, 2018 4:14:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:39
IP Address: 73.176.127.130

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Q1 Candidate's Name

Laura Fine

Q2 Candidate's District

9th 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? **Yes**

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 Illinois has made tremendous legal and political strides in recent years towards greater equality for the LGBTQ community, we still have a long way to go. Members of the LGBTQ community, minorities, immigrants and the disabled still face unacceptable acts of discrimination, harassment, and violence. If elected, I will continue to be an ally against discrimination, abuse, and violence against all marginalized communities. I will fight for the rights of every Illinoisan.

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

Free and appropriate public education is a right and should be available to all individuals regardless of their abilities. As a state we need to fully fund public education to ensure that everyone receives the appropriate type of education that is best suited to their abilities so that they can thrive and excel.

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

We need to support affordable housing options in all communities including integrated living arrangements so everyone can prosper in their communities.

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

As a state we need to make sure that every individual is cared for and is able to fully participate in their communities. One way we can do that is to increase staffing and oversight of state agencies who oversee the welfare of our disabled residents. Also, as the state auditors' report revealed we need more transparency in order to ensure the safety and well-being of our disabled citizens in various settings.

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

I will continue to support measures that increase accessibility of all facilities and businesses for customers with disabilities.

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

I will continue to support legislation to support accessibility of all facilities including public transportation for customers 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?

Although we recently passed legislation to increase these wages, that is not nearly enough especially in our current tight job market. We need to increase funding in order to make these wages competitive.

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 this issue a funding priority. We need to review and improve our tax structure to increase state revenues so that we can fund programs and services for our residents with disabilities.
