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Q1 Candidate's Name

Heidi Henry

Q2 Candidate's District

Illinois Senate 38

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**

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?

We marginalize by harmful labels. My goal would be to promote equality and inclusion. All people must be treated with dignity. Inclusion in housing, medical care, jobs, pay, creating independence.

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

We must make sure we have teachers that have training to teach to all abilities. Making sure schools and transportation are accessible. Funding school aids for education and personal needs.

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

I have been looking at grant programs for home ownership for those with differing abilities. I would like to make sure there is that opportunity, not just rentals. Rental units must be made to house all people. We would need to retrofit or build for use. Surrounding communities should have accessible shopping and transportation. Seeking out viable vibrant areas in our state to create welcome communities.

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

Our payment structure is a mess and our State's enormous debt has I think in part caused a delay in fully funding programs. The budget impasse set us back and we must get Illinois back on it's feet so it can make progress toward our future. Now, this will not happen overnight, but We MUST have a direct and implementable plan in place to get people out of "warehousing" living situations and into independent living. I would like to create a time line to focus the step by step effort with a predictable outcome. And not "defund" it or delay it for something else. Illinois must keep it's promises and follow the letter of the law. There is often no will in Springfield to do the heavy lifting and things get put off. That is why I am running.

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

Business has to recognize the value of catering to people with disabilities. Making up over 10% of our population, it only makes good financial sense to make buildings, fixtures, public restrooms, aisle ways, entries and items all accessible. I would like to work with our Chambers of Commerce ambassadors to bring awareness and open their markets literally to everyone!

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

We have an issue with accessibility. There is a need to replace and add accessible transportation options. This has been an ongoing process, but has seemed to hit a plateau. Again, there must be the will in government to get things done and stop vacillating. I would want a direct an implementable time line for completion of many stalled projects. Of course getting our finances in order will help facilitate getting this done. You would have me in your corner pushing this measure.

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

The "fight for $15" Living wages! We MUST pay people what they are worth and allow them to work with the dignity of a living wage! That is a cornerstone of my campaign as I live in an impoverished area. It is ALL workers that must get a pay raise. I know what living wages have done in other parts of this country and I will fight for them here in Illinois!

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?

Yes, I know. Our social services are a MESS! Our current governor doesn't care and allowed our finances to deteriorate and put people in need in real jeopardy! We have an excellent comptroller that is making things better slowly. We need a new governor and get our social services back on track. It needed so much work before 2014 and now we have a real mess! You have my word that we will get this done. It will not be overnight, but it will have regular and predictable recovery so that peoples needs can be met. It's just disturbing that those that we are here to serve are left out of even basic services across this state. I am so sorry. I will work so hard to fix it I promise!