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Q1 Candidate's Name

James Leslie

Q2 Candidate's District

50th Illinois House

Q3 Will you support closure of any State Operated Developmental Centers and shift corresponding resources toward integrated, community-based living options? **No**

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 take your question to mean "What can you do individually?" What I can do is engage the leadership of those communities to help me with the when, where, and whom to meet with to make sure the concerns of those communities at a minimum are being addressed.

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

This is something I've already done. A mother of a downs syndrome child was having changes forced upon her in the public school system. Quite frankly I taught her what pressure points to press to get those changes reversed.

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

Emmanuel House is a local organization that has had success with above-described problems. I would publicly support their mission and use their model in state policy.

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

As a Firefighter/Paramedic, I find nursing homes horrible. They're expensive, depressing, and the service is poor. Moving these people out of nursing homes is likely a cost saver and the path of least resistance.

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

Strengthen penalties for habitual code violators.

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

Infrastructure as a whole needs updating. When those changes are being made we should make sure they comply with ADA

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

On time State of Illinois budgeting. Every year.

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?

Everything cycles back to our budget. The budget impasse has us spending money on fees and penalties rather than services. That is sunk cost. The late interest penalties add up to \$1B alone. \$1B buys a lot of determination of need assessments.
