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Q1 Candidate's Name

Mary Mahady

Q2 Candidate's District

State Senate, 32nd District

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?

We need to ensure that all people are safe and welcome in Illinois, including multiply marginalized disabled people. We need to make sure funds are directed to establishing safe and accessible facilities in communities with significant marginalized populations. Increased 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?

I would work to increase funding to public schools to provide the necessary accessible facilities, including elevators, wheelchair ramps, railings and playground equipment.

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

I would look to providing funding to group homes and community-based living facilities and shifting away from only institutional care facilities, which would 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, and monitor, compliance with the ADA in all settings and 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?

I would work to 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?

By raising the state minimum wage to \$15/hour and providing benefits to home/community care professionals. This would help to stabilize wages and attract workers.

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 sure we pass a state budget that allocates for a fully-funded home/community care program and streamlining the process for DON assessments so backlogs don't become unmanageable
