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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1 Candidate's Name**

Andy Manar

**Q2 Candidate's District**

48th Senate District

**Q3** Will you support closure of any State Operated Developmental Centers and shift corresponding resources toward integrated, community-based living options? **Yes**

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**Q4** Would you support legislation to eliminate the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities in Illinois? **Yes**

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**Q5** Do you support per-beneficiary funding caps in the Illinois Medicaid system? **No**

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**Q6** Should Illinois Medicaid and SNAP benefits have a mandatory work component? **No**

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**Q7** Would you advocate raising Medicaid reimbursement rates for home-based nursing services? **Yes**

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**Q8** Do you support a fair (graduated) income tax? **Yes**

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**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**

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## 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?

The first step to ensuring people with disabilities who identify as members of other marginalized communities know they are welcomed in Illinois, is to realize that the people who identify as members of these groups face many more challenges. To ensure their challenges are not trivialized, it's important that members of the community, such as health care workers, who would most frequently deal with these individuals, are given training to increase understanding of the types of challenges this community faces.

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

I was the sponsor of Senate Bill 1947, the Evidence Based Model, that will drive state resources first to underfunded schools. In addition to ensuring that an increase in funding to public schools provides accessible facilities, including elevators, wheelchair ramps, railings, and playground equipment, steps must be taken to ensure the wellbeing of the student's mentally and emotionally. This includes making sure all students who need assistance are identified, assisting students who have IEPs with getting the resources they need, and providing transition services to students who are 14 and up with the transition to higher education and/or work.

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

This begins with shifting away from only institutional care facilities and ensuring more affordable housing for all. A way to achieve this is to ensure funding for remodeling of apartments and/or townhomes which would follow a universal design.

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

In order to make Illinois more compliant with the Ligas, Williams, and Colbert Consent Decrees, one needs to ensure consumer choice. This can be accomplished through ensuring funding for a variety of services geared towards helping individuals live independently in the community. The funding would support programs such as Centers for Independent Living, the DHS Reintegration program, and other services such as home services, which work towards helping people stay independent. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations II Committee, I will continue to support these efforts.

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

We must demand compliance with the ADA in all settings, and if necessary take further steps in Illinois, to make sure all businesses are accessible to customers with all disabilities. We must create incentives for businesses to adhere to ADA standards, creating a positive reinforcement cycle through compliance.

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

Allocate money to transportation services that serve the public in Downstate counties that I represent so they can continue to make their full array of services wheelchair accessible and buses ramp-accessible. Illinois also needs to make sure that rural counties in Downstate are adequately served.

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## Candidate's Questionnaire 2018

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

Raising the state minimum wage to \$15/hour and providing benefits to home/community care professionals, who can make as little as \$10/hour, would help to stabilize wages. The General Assembly has passed a 48 cent raise for home care professionals that the governor has not implemented.

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**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?

The problem could be reduced by passing 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. Ultimately, however, we won't see these issues improve until we ensure there is adequate state staff in place capable of beginning to address the backlog of both PUNS and DON assessments.

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