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Q1 Candidate's Name

Michelle Mussman

Q2 Candidate's District

56 House District

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

Respondent skipped this question

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?

Respondent skipped this question

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 support making sure that anyone who has a disability or who is a member of another marginalized community has access to resources that they need. As the Chair of the House Special Needs Services Committee and a member of the House-Appropriations Human Services Committee, I have made it a priority of mine to ensure that programs are funded and that laws that directly help these communities are passed. We also need to have regular conversations about what more we can do to protect the members of these communities from discrimination.

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

I supported the new school funding formula (BS 1947, 100th GA), which is designed to ensure that all of our students have access to an equitable education. I also supported the FY '19 budget, which allows for that funding. We also need to ensure that teachers are adequately trained, that their class sizes are not too large, and that they have the necessary resources to help students with disabilities.

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

We need to do more to make sure that housing is accessible and affordable for people with disabilities. I am committed to working with the members of my committee and all interested parties to find ways that make affordable housing more accessible. Additionally, I have been in regular communication with the Executive Director of the Housing Opportunity Development Cooperative about how to fund and utilize property sites within my district for affordable housing. I also recently met with parents at an event hosted by the NSSEO about this issue, and we had a great conversation about what we need to do. I work on this issue regularly and have made it one of my top priorities.

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

We need to ensure that we are properly funding Independent Living Facilities, as well as other programs that help people with disabilities live as independently as possible. We also need to work to raise awareness about what living with a disability is like to help remove the stigma that can be associated with a person living with a disability. We also need to make sure that people have information about how to apply for the PUNS list, and also make sure that PUNS is adequately funded so that people can be given the services they need. We also need to pay workers fair wages so that we have an adequate workforce that can help people with disabilities.

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

Bringing the business community into the conversation about how to make local businesses more accessible is extremely important. I would be open to working with the businesses in my community to discuss about what is currently being done to make sure their facilities are ADA accessible, as well as what more can be done.

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

This year, I supported the budget that funds free rides for people with disabilities through the RTA. I would also be open to having an open dialogue with local officials and advocates of the disability community to develop more ways we can make public transportation more accessible to people with disabilities. We also need to find new sources of revenue by requiring millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share and closing corporate loopholes. This would allow for public transportation to be updated to be ADA compliant.

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?

We should make sure that the employees of these programs are making fair wages. That is why I have supported several measures that would raise their wages to \$15 an hour.

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?

I support fulling funding these programs, while also closing corporate tax loopholes and requiring millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share so that we have additional sources of revenue that can help provide these essential services.
