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Q1 Candidate's Name

Benjamin Webb

Q2 Candidate's District

105th Legislative District of Illinois

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?

Our legislative goal must be to protect the civil liberties of all people in our state; our general assembly must ensure the law reflects an inclusive society, especially in areas of systematic oppression, segregation, and disenfranchisement. Members of all communities no matter race, sexual orientation, gender, ability or disability must see themselves and their issues reflected in priorities of their legislators.

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

As a state-level advocate, the general assembly must work to fund infrastructure improvements and accessibility while working teacher preparation programs, the Board of Education, and special education programs to ensure appropriate training and ongoing professional development for educators to protect the rights of students with disabilities, their families, and transitional resource/coaches. As a teacher, I feel our state can do more rather than disengaging as a child "ages out".

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

Grants and incentives need to come from the state level to ensure the creation of new housing options during a time of major housing shortage and excessive wait times. New personnel and resources to shorten waiting times and urging developers and renovators to make their spaces accessible will assist in attending to the need of the 1 in 5 Americans who have a disability.

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

Advocates, consultants, and outreach entities house the expertise regarding compliance, and independent, community-integrated settings. I will promise to have all stakeholders present and trust their expertise with the gravity it should always carry.

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

Our state leaders should push municipalities regarding compliance and enforcement while providing businesses pathways to update and develop their customer-base to include all members of the community, especially customers with disabilities. Grants for renovation and compliance-focused projects should work in tandem with local governments identifying problem areas and developing roadmaps to correct problems.

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

At the state level, representatives must advocate and prioritize infrastructure funding for upgrades according to Illinois Compliance rules, expand access and equity, and facilitate local municipalities and townships to ensure the transportation rights of people with disabilities.

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

The issue pertaining to wages sounds similar to the efforts taken recently by teachers, in that cost of living has increased and yet wages have remained static. I foresee upcoming passage of a living wage law as well as direct efforts to boost wages of IPA, DSP, and providers as the next task to be taken up.

Candidate's Questionnaire 2018

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?

Firstly, programs should not have to operate under staffing and resource constraints. Supporting these systems means ensuring our state has a stable, reliable (and when possible, multi-year) budget for social services and education. Secondly, incentivizing long-term services and support networks to increase the number of people served in community settings rather than institutions will drastically impact the thousands of eligible residents. Experts need a seat when designing the fix for our system's inefficiencies.
