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Q1 Candidate's Name

Trisha Zubert

Q2 Candidate's District

Illinois House of Representatives, district 64

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?

I think it would be ignorant of me to state that I know what marginalized communities might need. As I do now, I would reach out to all communities to find out what they need and what they don't have access to, but should. I recognize their struggles and how they're discriminated against when it comes to assistance, but I need their knowledge in how best to help.

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

I support special education programs, and accommodations for those students with disabilities. I think state-mandated standardized testing exacerbates often ignores the accommodations some kids need. Not every student is the same, and we can't assume they all need the same things.

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

I love what Access Living is doing locally. Organizations like them need more funding and assistance so they can continue to help those who need it.

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

Historically, affordable housing has been the largest hurdle in accomplishing compliance. We need to again, focus on what organizations like AL are doing and help them so that cost isn't the thing stopping this compliance.

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

I think we need to point out to businesses that even if they're ignorant to the needs of many, increased accessibility means more customers. I think that if we "push" it from that angle, people will be more interested in accessible entrances, lower counters, etc.

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

This is such a huge problem in my area. Instead of investing money in expanding all the roadways we have, it would be more ideal to invest in ways to get about those roads.

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

I'm sorry, but I don't have an answer to this. But I would love to work to find an answer.

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?

47 is mortifying. First, we need to have more people working in this field to process applications and more employees in the home and community-based care. Perhaps this circles back to a way to stabilize salaries in this field. We need to encourage people to join it by increasing the pay. Then, when we have more employees, we take care of those on the waiting list. I am assuming this starts with "not enough people" to get the job done. If we keep claiming people are leaving Illinois or looking for jobs, it seems like we have plenty of people who would be available if we pay them their worth.
