

Optional Short Answer Questions for Ronnie Saunders

Down Syndrome Indiana would like to thank each candidate who took time to answer the following questions:

Optional: What is your position on Medicaid block grants?

I like the idea of funding being specified for particular communities, like individuals with disabilities but my fear is that block grants may not give the amount of funding needed due to limiting formulas that are used to determine what is given. I don't want to see people on waiting lists for support.

Optional: What is your position on LTSS for people with disabilities and are they included in your health care plan?

LTSS for people with disabilities should be necessary, especially when looking at the employment aspect. For those that are able to and want to work, we should be providing the support and resources for individuals with disabilities to gain employment and keep those jobs. LTSS services should be included in any comprehensive health care plan.

Optional: What is your position on Direct Support Professionals (DSP) getting paid adequate wages for their work?

Just like our educators in our public schools, direct support professionals don't get paid enough and it's causing good people to leave this profession where so many in our communities need their specialized work. We need to better support the current DSPs and encourage those who want to become a direct support professional with a competitive living wage.

Optional: What is your position on paid family leave?

Paid family leave is vital to our community. Workers need the ability to take time to care for themselves or their families while not losing wages that will be use to continue paying for bills and any possible medical or prescription costs. Hoosiers should never be in the position to chose their job over their families' health.

As a legislator, I would do my best to make sure that the Disabilities Act does not become dismantled or watered down in any way. I will hold business and organizations responsible for complying with the components of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I will fight hard for our schools to receive all of the funding that they are due, including in regards to the students with disabilities. Those funding and resources are crucial for those students success in life--developing life and work skills that will stick with them throughout their

Optional Short Answer Questions Cont'd...

lives. As a former special education instructor and job coach, I've seen the determination that our Hoosier students with disabilities have and if they would receive the full backing from the state when it comes to funding and resources then they would thrive way beyond their time in the education system.

People with disabilities who get married should continue to receive Supplemental Security Income. Just because someone with disabilities gets married doesn't mean that the medical needs stop--that SSI will still go toward what those individuals need to just continue to live their daily lives with some sense of security and normalcy.

Optional: What are you doing to protect the Americans with Disabilities Act? How will you make sure people with a disability get treated fairly?

As a legislator, I would do my best to make sure that the Disabilities Act does not become dismantled or watered down in any way. I will hold business and organizations responsible for complying with the components of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Optional: Will you help make sure the government pays its fair share of the cost of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)?

I will fight hard for our schools to receive all of the funding that they are due, including in regards to the students with disabilities. Those funding and resources are crucial for those students success in life--developing life and work skills that will stick with them throughout their lives. As a former special education instructor and job coach, I've seen the determination that our Hoosier students with disabilities have and if they would receive the full backing from the state when it comes to funding and resources then they would thrive way beyond their time in the education system.

Optional: How would you make the Social Security program better for people with disabilities?

People with disabilities who get married should continue to receive Supplemental Security Income. Just because someone with disabilities gets married doesn't mean that the medical needs stop--that SSI will still go toward what those individuals need to just continue to live their daily lives with some sense of security and normalcy.