



2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Presidential Candidate:

In 2020, approximately 23% of the American electorate — over 35 million individuals — will be people with disabilities. As people with disabilities, we want to live independent lives and contribute our talent and energy to the future success of our great nation. There are over 60 million Americans with disabilities who make remarkable and valuable contributions to our communities.

Despite these contributions and despite our numbers, Americans with disabilities continue to face discrimination in many arenas including employment, housing, transportation, health care, and education. Candidates for public office must address these disparities and set forth a vision to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities and our full inclusion in society.

In an effort to inform our community of your disability policy positions, initiatives, and priorities, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), and the REV UP Campaign have developed this presidential candidate questionnaire. We believe the issues addressed in this questionnaire are vital to ensuring all individuals with disabilities have an opportunity to achieve the American Dream and therefore we request your response.

We greatly appreciate your time and attention to our concerns. If you have any questions, please contact Keri Gray, Sr. Director, AAPD, 202-521-4310, kgray@aapd.com or Sarah Blahovec, Disability Vote Organizer, NCIL, 724-309-5182, sarah@ncil.org.

We look forward to sharing your responses with the 35 million eligible voters of the disability community!



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Executive Summary

Please insert an executive summary describing your top 2-3 policy priorities, and how you will advance the full community integration of people with disabilities.

I remember guys like Donald Trump from when I was a kid. They made fun of me for having a stutter. I've been standing up to bullies my whole life and as the Democratic Presidential nominee, I'll stand up to Donald Trump for the millions of people with disabilities. I'll be a President who understands that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 61 million Americans -- one in four adults -- have a disability. This is the only minority group that - due to an accident or an illness -- anyone can join at any given moment. I am running for President to restore the backbone of this country – the middle class - and ensure that this time everyone gets to come along, including individuals with disabilities. I will ensure people with disabilities have a voice in government and are front and center in policy development and implementation. And, I will prioritize enacting and implementing policies that support people with disabilities to live in communities with the support they need, which means having good jobs, affordable and accessible housing, accessible transportation, and any needed long-term services and supports and accommodations. I will also ensure that all people with pre-existing conditions, including people with disabilities, can access affordable health care that lives up to the expectations of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead*, which called for people to be able to "live, work, and receive services in integrated settings" appropriate to their needs.

1. LEADERSHIP

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) publication, "High Risk Series" (2015), points out the vast problems of administration and effectiveness of federal disability programs. These very same problems have been cited in previous reports spanning over twenty years. To address these issues, reform must begin within the Executive Branch.

- Will you commit to creating a National Office of Disability Coordination to be headed by a cabinet level executive?

I will re-establish the positions created by the Obama-Biden Administration to better serve the disability community, including a Senior Associate Director in the Office of Public Engagement who will be tasked with ensuring that the White House is engaged with the disability community and older Americans. These positions helped us directly and proactively engage with advocates around the country, which was critical to understand how federal programs were – or were not – coordinating their work for people with disabilities, and the disparities that existed among agencies and programs, as well as geographical disparities. During the Obama-Biden Administration, we also created the Administration on Community Living (ACL), a new federal agency tasked with advancing community integration for older adults and people with disabilities. As part of the ACL's creation, we selected a person with a disability as Principal Deputy Administrator who also held the title of Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for Disability Policy. This ensured that disability policy was a priority within the Department. As President, I will restore the ACL and ensure that a



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disabled person is appointed to a leadership role, and I will restore the position of Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for Disability Policy.

- What are you doing to make sure qualified people with disabilities will be a part of your political team and, if elected, as part of your Administration?

It is essential that my team, and my administration, include people with disabilities. I am proud that my campaign is committed to providing needed accommodations to employ people with disabilities on my staff and to welcome them as volunteers. My campaign has made it a priority to do outreach to people with disabilities to ensure that their voices and priorities drive decision-making about disability policy.

Across my administration, I will ensure those working on my staff in the White House, in agencies, including Cabinet-level positions, reflect the diversity of our country, including people with disabilities. During the Obama-Biden Administration, we proactively recruited people with disabilities and people with other diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to serve at all levels of government and launched a cross-agency initiative focused on increasing the employment of people with disabilities, across the federal government and also among federal contractors. Agencies were required to “help people with disabilities prepare to qualify for the array of jobs offered by federal contractors; connect federal contractors with jobs to qualified job seekers with disabilities; and provide federal contractors with the tools and resources they need to recruit, retain and promote people with disabilities.” Under our administration, we increased the percentage and actual number of workers with disabilities in the federal government to a higher level than at any time over the last three decades. I will build on that progress. I will ensure that my administration is working towards developing specific hiring and advancement goals for individuals with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities. I will work with the disability community to identify qualified candidates with disabilities and will commit to making their employment in my administration a priority.

2. ADVANCING THE CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE INTEGRATED IN SOCIETY

The vast majority of Americans with disabilities and older Americans prefer home and community-based services that allow them to live independently in their communities. However, states and insurance providers of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) still restrict access to community-based services and prefer nursing homes. This reliance on institutional placement results in unwanted institutionalization, depriving people with disabilities of their fundamental freedoms and cutting their lives short. It is also far more expensive than community-based services.

- If elected, will you support the Disability Integration Act (currently S.117/HR.555) – bipartisan civil rights legislation that establishes in statute the right of Americans with LTSS disabilities to receive services and supports in the community and be integrated in society – and sign this legislation into law? What other investments will you make in expanding long-term services and supports?



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Yes, I will work with Congress to pass legislation designed to ensure adherence to the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision, which requires government programs to provide people with disabilities the ability to “live, work, and receive services in integrated settings” appropriate to their needs. The Obama-Biden Administration made enforcement of Olmstead a top priority. As President, I will ensure every agency aggressively enforces *Olmstead*’s mandate, including housing, education, health care, employment, and transportation.

I will protect Medicaid and ensure that its beneficiaries can access home- and community-based long-term services and supports when they want it, and that home care and direct support professionals get paid a good wage. Medicaid pays for more long-term services and supports than any other payer in the country. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration has released a plan that would allow states to cap funding and deny coverage. My Administration will protect Medicaid funding and protect and expand access to long-term services and supports. The Trump Administration has also proposed to roll back important protections for people with disabilities in Medicaid Managed Care arrangements. In the Biden Administration, we will restore these protections and carefully monitor states that propose to place long term services and supports under managed care to ensure that people with disabilities are protected. In addition, my administration won’t let states abandon their duties under Medicaid and will take enforcement action against any state that allows profiteering to get in the way of Medicaid beneficiaries’ health. A Biden Administration will ensure that people with disabilities have increased access to home and community-based services. The ACA strengthened the MFP program by including additional states to apply for funding. I will work with Congress to secure permanent reauthorization of the MFP program to support people’s ability to live in the most integrated setting appropriate.

- People with disabilities are also significantly overrepresented in prisons and jails. A few key reasons for this disparity is police discrimination, lack of accommodations in the court system, jails functioning as hospitals, particularly for behavioral health, and inadequate re-entry support. How will you address the disproportionate number of people with disabilities, who are also often people of color, that are institutionalized in jails and prisons? In what ways will you transform our criminal justice system?

Today, too many people are incarcerated in the United States. To build safe and healthy communities, we need to rethink who we’re sending to jail, how we treat those in jail, and how we help them get the health care, education, jobs, and housing they need to successfully rejoin society after they serve their time. As President, I will strengthen America’s commitment to justice and reform our criminal justice system.

I will get people who should be supported with social services – instead of in our prisons – connected to the help they need. Too often, those in need of mental health care or treatment for a substance use disorder do not get the necessary care. Instead, they end up having interactions with law enforcement that lead to incarceration. To change the nature of these interactions, I will fund initiatives to partner mental health and substance use disorder experts, social workers, and disability advocates with police departments. These service providers will train police officers to better de-escalate interactions with people in severe emotional distress. The service providers also will help police officers learn how to respectfully and appropriately interact with individuals with disabilities, such as those who are autistic or deaf, so these individuals with disabilities are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. These service providers will respond to calls with police officers, so that



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people with disabilities who should not be in the criminal justice system are actually getting the help they need, such as treatment for their addictions or mental health disabilities, housing, or other social services.

I will also expand access to voluntary, community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment, as well as educational opportunities and job training for people during and after incarceration. My administration will expand the use of drug courts and other diversion programs. When individuals are incarcerated, they should have access to treatment and support for their mental health disabilities or substance use conditions. Incarcerated individuals with learning disabilities and other cognitive disabilities must also receive the education they need while in jail or prison. All incarcerated people with disabilities should have the opportunity to pursue education and skills training so they can more easily find employment after their release.

- Americans with disabilities face many obstacles and barriers to voting, including inaccessible polling places and voting equipment, difficulty getting to the polling place, and poorly informed election officials and poll workers about access issues. What will you do to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to the fundamental right to vote? Do you support providing funding to states so they can purchase new accessible voting systems to replace the first generation accessible voting systems that have outlived their useful life?

Many people with disabilities cannot fully realize their right to vote without accessible voting information, accessible voting sites, and assistive technology. As President, I will fully implement the Help America Vote Act and Accessible Voting Act. One of the key sections of that legislation, which I advocated for, is to ensure that voting systems are accessible for people with disabilities. I will instruct my Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to act aggressively to ensure that all polling places are accessible, including the built environment; that ballot-marking devices are available and that poll workers respectfully support and interact with disabled and older voters who may need accommodations.

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that an estimated 32 percent of state and federal prisoners and 40 percent of local jail inmates have a disability, and that this population is three to four times more likely than the general population to report having at least one disability. Furthermore, there are significant racial disparities in incarceration rates, with African Americans incarcerated at more than five times the rate of whites. There are significant efforts around the country to restore voting rights for returning citizens (those who have completed all terms of their sentence.) As President, what would your Administration do to advance the restoration of voting rights for returned citizens?

I want to eliminate existing barriers preventing formerly incarcerated individuals from fully participating in society, including fully restoring their right to vote. Specifically, my administration will provide incentives to states to automatically restore voting rights for individuals convicted of felonies once they have served their sentences.

- Tens of thousands of people with mental health conditions and intellectual disabilities have been disenfranchised in 39 states due to laws that strip them of their right to vote. What would your



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Administration do to encourage the restoration of voting rights for people with mental health conditions and intellectual disabilities who have been denied the right to vote due to guardianship?

I will direct the Department of Justice to review state laws and enforce violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that emanate from guardianship laws, especially those that affect a person's right to vote. My administration will ensure due process protections when people are faced with a petition for guardianship. My administration also will promote efforts to provide Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities viable alternatives to guardianship if they need decision-making assistance, including supported decision-making.

- What will your administration do to ensure immigrants with disabilities have support and accommodations throughout the citizenship process?

Under the Rehabilitation Act, all federal agencies must "provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities in the administration of their programs and benefits," including the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS), but reasonable accommodations should mean more than the bare minimum. It should mean that immigrants with disabilities are provided the tools they need to succeed on their journey to becoming Americans, not roadblocks that make naturalization harder. My administration will streamline and improve the naturalization process to make it more accessible to all qualified green card holders. I will restore faith in the citizenship process by removing roadblocks to naturalization and obtaining the right to vote, addressing the application backlog by prioritizing the adjudication workstream and ensuring applications are processed quickly, and rejecting the imposition of unreasonable fees. As President, I will ensure that USCIS complies with the ADA at every step of the naturalization process.

- How will your administration ensure that immigrants are not denied citizenship on the basis of disability or public benefits?

I will immediately revoke the Trump Administration's public charge rule, which runs counter to our values as Americans and the history of our nation. Allowing immigration officials to deny a visa or permanent residency simply because an individual might use government services such as SNAP benefits or Medicaid undermines America's character as a land of opportunity that is open and welcoming to all, not just the wealthy. This rule has particularly serious harms for immigrants with disabilities, who may be prevented from receiving an immigration status simply because of their disability or, conversely, may have to forego necessary medical services in order to be granted a visa or residency status. In my administration, we will be a country that welcomes immigrants with disabilities and their families to join our country, and ensure that they can access services and support they need to succeed in the United States.

- Judicial nominations make a significant impact on the civil rights of Americans. What qualities will you look for in judicial nominees, and will these qualities include fair-minded constitutionalists that support the rights of people with disabilities?



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The ADA and other critical civil rights laws, including Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 all suffer without fair-minded judges who have the depth and understanding of the intent of Congress to advance the civil rights of all people with disabilities. In my administration, judicial nominees will be expected to have a strong grasp and understanding of the ADA and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision, and a track record of support for the rights of people with disabilities. I will also make it a priority to appoint judges who reflect the diversity of our country, including people with disabilities. I will also support efforts to diversify the legal profession so that law schools have strong applicants from members of the disability community and that law schools provide reasonable accommodations for their students with disabilities.

3. HEALTH CARE

People with disabilities rely on both public (Medicaid) and private insurance options to obtain coverage to meet their health care needs. Access to affordable comprehensive health care coverage is essential for people with disabilities to live independently and maximize the quality of their lives. Unfortunately, many people with disabilities continue to lack access to the services and supports they need. In addition, despite existing legal protections, people with disabilities are subject to discrimination in both the financing and provision of health care services.

- What will you do to address discrimination in the financing and provision of health care services to people with disabilities? Will you make enforcement of existing health care non-discrimination protections for people with disabilities a priority?

I am proud that the ACA provided individuals with pre-existing conditions, including those with disabilities, access to health insurance. People with disabilities were a large beneficiary of this policy, including those with mental health conditions. The ACA's essential health benefits include mental health and substance use disorder services, and the law also requires that all plans cover health benefits for mental health issues on par with how they provide benefits for physical health issues. I am proud that the ACA helped 60 million Americans access mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

My administration will ensure that health care non-discrimination protections are fully enforced. We will make it clear to states that Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 1557 of the ACA also apply to Medicaid programs because states receive federal financial assistance. We will also work with health insurance programs operated by recipients of federal financial assistance from HHS to ensure they are in compliance with Section 504 and Section 1557, including marketplace plans and Medicare Advantage plans. And the Department of Health and Human Services's Office of Civil Rights will create guidance for states and health insurance programs clarifying how the ADA applies to benefits and reimbursement decisions.

I will ensure people with disabilities are not denied coverage based on the use of the quality-adjusted life year (QALY) and related enterprises in making coverage and payment determinations in public programs. In 2010, the ACA created a statutory ban on their use to determine what Medicare could cover, an acknowledgement that



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their use could lead to Medicare restricting coverage of treatments and services that were most needed by people with chronic conditions and diseases and disabilities.

- How will you work to expand access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage for people with disabilities? What will you do to address discrimination in health care coverage against people with pre-existing health conditions, and ensure the protections for people with disabilities remain in place?

Today, the ACA is still a big deal. Because of Obamacare, over 100 million people no longer have to worry that an insurance company will deny coverage or charge higher premiums just because they have a pre-existing condition— whether cancer or diabetes or heart disease or a mental health challenge. Insurance companies can no longer set annual or lifetime limits on coverage. Roughly 20 million additional Americans obtained the peace of mind that comes with health insurance. Young people who are in transition from school to a job have the option to stay covered by their parents' plan until age 26.

But, every day over the past nine years, the ACA has been under relentless attack. Immediately after its passage, Congressional Republicans began trying again and again to repeal it. Following the lead of President Trump, Republicans in Congress have only doubled down on this approach since January 2017. And, since repeal through Congress has not been working, President Trump has been unilaterally doing everything he can to sabotage the ACA. Now, the Trump Administration is trying to get the entire law – including protections for people with pre-existing conditions – struck down in court.

As President, I will protect the ACA from these continued attacks. I oppose every effort to get rid of this historic law. Instead of starting from scratch and getting rid of private insurance, I have a plan to build on the ACA by giving Americans more choice, reducing health care costs, and making our health care system less complex to navigate.

I will build on the ACA to make sure people with disabilities have access to insurance. Access to affordable health insurance shouldn't depend on your zip code or income. Governors and state legislatures in 14 states have refused to take up the ACA's expansion of Medicaid eligibility, denying access to Medicaid for over 4 million adults. My plan will ensure these individuals get covered by offering premium-free access to the public option for those who are eligible for Medicaid but for their state's inaction, and making sure their public option covers the full scope of Medicaid benefits. States that have already expanded Medicaid will have the choice of moving the expansion population to the premium-free public option as long as the states continue to pay their current share of the cost of covering those individuals. Additionally, I will ensure people making below 138% of the federal poverty level get covered. I'll do this by automatically enrolling these individuals when they interact with certain institutions (such as public schools) or other programs for low-income populations (such as SNAP).

- Do you have a plan for expanding health insurance coverage through a universal health care policy, and if so, how will you ensure that this policy covers the needs of people with disabilities, including long-term services and supports?



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Yes. My health care plan is the quickest, most effective way to achieve universal health care at 1/30th the cost of Medicare for All and without increasing taxes on the middle class, which is a non-starter for me.

As President, I will defend and build upon the ACA to ensure every American has access to quality, affordable health care. My plan takes a number of steps to build on Obamacare, including allowing Americans who are uninsured or who don't like their coverage to buy into a public option like Medicare. As in Medicare, the Biden public option will reduce costs for patients by negotiating lower prices from hospitals and other health care providers. It also will better coordinate among all of a patient's doctors to improve the efficacy and quality of their care, and cover primary care without any co-payments. And it will bring relief to small businesses struggling to afford coverage for their employees.

My plan also increases premium tax credits so more people will have lower premiums and lower deductibles. I also believe that Medicaid plays an absolutely critical role in our healthcare system and it must be protected and strongly funded going forward. As President, I will fight all efforts to undermine it, such as work requirements and other tactics to reduce enrollment.

I will also expand primary care and innovative health care delivery models in rural communities. One way I will do this is by building new health clinics and deploying telehealth in rural America.

Access to long-term services and supports are essential to many people with disabilities, and essential to living up to the spirit of the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision. Currently, Medicaid is the largest public financing source for long-term services and supports. Trump is advancing the idea of issuing block grants to states to implement their Medicaid programs. I fought against Paul Ryan's attempts to turn Medicaid into a block grant and I'll fight against any attempt as President. Medicaid is not perfect, and we must advance policies to end its institutional bias, but not undermine its financing structure. I will also ensure my Department of Health and Human Services stops states from privatizing Medicaid and allowing private companies to profit off Medicaid while cutting services for those who need them the most. I will work with Congress to pass legislation designed to ensure adherence to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead*, which called for people to be able to "live, work, and receive services in integrated settings" appropriate to their needs. I also will work with Congress to secure reauthorization and invest in the MFP program, which provides funding to states to expand the number of people with disabilities who have the choice to live in their home or in their communities. The ACA strengthened the MFP program by increasing funding for it and increasing the number of states participating in it. The Trump Administration has proposed to discontinue the program. We will also vigorously enforce the Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS) Rule and reverse rollbacks in enforcement undertaken by the Trump Administration.

My administration will not only protect Medicaid, I will work to support systems in states that will make it possible to have strong, stable service delivery entities with disability voices influencing the services provided. Without a sufficient workforce, the realization of truly supportive HCBS is not possible. I will focus on efforts to recruit and retain more Americans to join the direct support sector. One way to encourage more people to become direct support professionals is to ensure that it pays a living wage. Those that work in this field should not have to get a second job to pay household bills. No one should work a full-time job and live in poverty. It's wrong. As President, I will ensure that professionals providing supports for individuals with disabilities have good jobs, earn a living wage, and have access to affordable health care. I will secure a \$15 minimum wage for



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all workers, including our direct support professionals who provide care to people with disabilities living in our communities. And, I will support indexing the minimum wage to the median hourly wage so that low-wage workers' wages keep up with those of middle income workers. Every worker deserves to earn enough to live a middle-class lifestyle, provide for their family, save for retirement, and send their kids to college. The Obama-Biden Administration extended long overdue overtime and minimum wage protections to nearly 2 million home care workers. As President, I will codify these protections into law and build on them, including by ensuring these workers have the right to organize and collectively bargain. I will support the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights legislation that expands federal protections to the home care workforce.

I also will ensure that veterans with disabilities that require a prosthesis are able to access the most modern prosthetics technology available, and that they are able to upgrade their equipment at no cost as new developments occur.

- How will you work to improve the Medicaid program, including ensuring access to home and community based services and the elimination of the bias toward institutional services in the Medicaid program?

As described above, I will protect Medicaid and make sure the program gives those on Medicaid who need long-term services and supports access to home and community-based services, including working to secure re-authorization and invest in the MFP program. In addition, the Biden Administration will restore vital protections regarding Medicaid Managed Care weakened by the Trump Administration. We won't let states skirt their duties under Medicaid and will take enforcement action against any state that allows profiteering to get in the way of Medicaid beneficiaries' health.

- With the continual push to block grant Medicaid (to the states), one of the unintended consequences could be the elimination or severe cut in the provision of the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services. This would have a dramatic impact on the ability of people with disabilities in rural America to access health related services. Will you work to ensure this critical component of Medicaid remains intact?

Yes. As Vice President, I strongly opposed block granting Medicaid when Paul Ryan proposed it. As President, I will continue to oppose efforts to block grant Medicaid and cut critical benefits. NEMT is critical to ensuring access to care for people who do not have accessible transportation. Transportation barriers will often cause patients -- many of whom are Medicaid enrollees -- to miss appointments or delay their care. This is especially true in rural communities where access to care requires significant travel to reach medical facilities. While federal rules require states to "ensure necessary transportation for beneficiaries to and from providers," states may apply for Medicaid waivers to eliminate this service. In my administration, when reviewing state Medicaid waiver applications, we will ensure that such critical services remain available to Medicaid beneficiaries. I will also work to expand transportation options for people with disabilities, not only for non-emergency medical reasons but also for employment, access to safe, healthy, and affordable food, and access to activities that promote health, particularly in rural areas of the country.

- In light of the opioid epidemic, policies have been enacted to limit the use of opioids. An unintended consequence of this has been harm to people living with chronic pain. How will you ensure that people with



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chronic pain have access to the full range of pain management modalities, including opioids, when they are appropriate and necessary?

An essential part of our national strategy to address the opioid epidemic must be stopping pharmaceutical companies' marketing practices that lead to overprescribing. Yet at the same time, physicians still must effectively treat pain. Many disabilities and conditions need effective pain management. I will work with disability stakeholders to create systems that ensure access to needed pain medication and pain management care. I will support the development of less addictive pain medications and alternative pain treatments, and improve standards of quality for treatment through increased investments in the NIH's HEAL program. In accordance with evidence-based medicine, I will call for a requirement that health care insurance policies cover alternatives to opioids for chronic pain, without barriers such as prior authorization or high levels of cost-sharing. I will crack down on misleading advertising regarding substance use disorder treatment facilities with no basis in evidence. Building on the Obama-Biden Administration's prior efforts, I will direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to work with the medical community to support research and the development of curricula and training regarding pain management. I will ensure that the systematic study of pain management and substance use disorder is a mandatory part of the curricula and material on which doctors and other medical personnel are tested. I will ensure regular updating and appropriate use of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain based on the best available evidence.

- Does your administration support the federal legalization of marijuana and how will your administration decriminalize the marijuana industry?

I support marijuana for medical use. My administration will prioritize the research needed to advance thoughtful federal policies related to the use of marijuana for medical conditions, chronic pain, and disabilities. In addition, I will decriminalize possession of marijuana and expunge the records of anyone who has served jail time for its use. No one should be incarcerated for drug use alone. Instead, they should be diverted to drug courts and treatment. And I'll continue the Obama-Biden Administration's policy of letting states set their own rules when it comes to recreational marijuana use.

- In the past several years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of psychiatric hospitals, even as the Department of Justice has found, and many state governments have acknowledged, that significant numbers of people with psychiatric disabilities have hospital admissions that could be avoided or shortened if sufficient community-based services were available. What will you do to ensure that people with psychiatric disabilities are afforded the services they need to succeed in their own homes and communities and avoid psychiatric hospitalization?

Our culture and health care system too often treat mental illness as different from physical health conditions. It's wrong. As Vice President, I was a champion for efforts to implement the federal mental health parity law, improve access to mental health care, and eliminate the stigma around mental health. As President, I will redouble these efforts. There is no doubt we need a better system of care for the mental health needs of adults and children. As the National Alliance on Mental Illness has described, "many individuals living with mental



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illness experience recovery through a combination of community services, medication, peer support, housing, education, employment and other supports.” Integrating mental health and addiction treatment into primary care must be a priority and we must expand community-based programs incorporating the full spectrum of services, including supported employment and housing, necessary for successful treatment. We also must tackle mental illness stigma preventing millions from seeking and receiving effective treatment. We can and must do better.

I am proud that the ACA (ACA) provided individuals with pre-existing conditions, including a mental health condition, access to health insurance. People with disabilities were a large beneficiary of this new policy, including those with mental health conditions. The ACA also requires insurance companies to cover mental and behavioral health treatment as an essential benefit, and cover that care at parity with physical health benefits. And, the ACA gave 60 million Americans access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

Yet, despite this progress, I know that our parity laws are under-enforced and too many people are still denied the mental health care they need. As President, I will make sure enforcing our mental health parity laws is a priority. Currently, states vary in how they define essential health benefits when it comes to mental health. In my administration, we will set clear standards raising the bar for mental health coverage, including habilitative services and other forms of behavioral health care.

I will also build on the ACA to make sure low-income individuals with mental health disabilities have access to insurance. Access to affordable health insurance that includes coverage for mental health shouldn't depend on your zip code or income. Governors and state legislatures in 14 states have refused to take up the ACA's expansion of Medicaid eligibility, denying access to Medicaid for roughly 4 million adults. In 2 of those states, new leadership has created movement towards expansion, but millions remain without insurance. My plan will ensure these individuals get covered by offering premium-free access to the public option for those eligible for Medicaid but for their state's inaction, and making sure their public option covers the full scope of Medicaid benefits. States that have already expanded Medicaid will have the choice of moving the expansion population to the premium-free public option as long as the states continue to pay their current share of the cost of covering those individuals. Additionally, I will ensure people making below 138% of the federal poverty level get covered. I'll do this by automatically enrolling these individuals when they interact with certain institutions (such as public schools) or other programs for low-income populations (such as SNAP).

I will also expand primary care and innovative health care delivery models in rural communities. One way I will do this is by building new health clinics and deploying telehealth in rural America. The Obama-Biden Administration successfully used the USDA Community Facility Direct Loan & Grant Program to build rural hospitals and mental health clinics across rural America and equip them with the best technology. As President, I will expand this grant funding, with a focus on accelerating the deployment of telehealth for mental health and specialty care.

Because I also want to make sure that our kids get the mental health care they need, I will double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals in our schools. One in five children in the U.S. experience a mental health condition. Yet, too many of our children are not getting the mental health care they need from a trained professional. We need mental health professionals in our schools to help provide quality mental health care, but we don't have nearly enough. The current school psychologist to student ratio in this country is roughly 1,400 to 1, while experts say it should be at most 700 to 1. That's a gap



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of about 35,000 to 60,000 school psychologists. Teachers too often end up having to fill the gap, taking away from their time focusing on teaching. This way we can focus on investing in prevention in our schools and ensure that behavioral and emotional challenges can be addressed by health care professionals, and not our criminal justice system. And, I will restore the Obama-Biden Administration guidance to help schools address the high number of suspensions and expulsions that disproportionately impact students of color and students with disabilities.

I believe it is our sacred duty to properly prepare and equip those we send into harm's way, and to care for them and their families, both while they are deployed, and after they return home. That includes the hundreds of thousands who are returning home with unseen injuries. Recent data show that, on average, 20 veterans and service members die by suicide every day, and among some groups, the rate of suicide is rising alarmingly. This is a serious challenge, and our goal must be to remove the stigma in military communities to seek help, ensure that every veteran that reaches out is immediately connected to support and services, and to ultimately end the suicide crisis among veterans. As President, I will ensure a multi-faceted, substantive, and sustained commitment that addresses this as the public health emergency that it is. Therefore, my administration will work aggressively to facilitate immediate access to mental health services for veterans in crisis, to include standardizing performance expectations around same day, walk-in and urgent mental health services; hiring more ER psychiatric staff and peer specialists; expanding crisis line capacity to ensure all calls are answered and appropriate referrals occur within hours; and implementing specific programs to encourage veterans to prioritize their mental health by reaching out to the VA when they need support. During my first year in office, I will have a goal of completely eliminating wait times for veterans who reach out with suicidal ideation so that they are immediately taken into treatment. We will also tackle issues that contribute to higher suicide risk. This includes implementing programs to disseminate high-quality treatments for PTSD, ensuring that veterans have access to the best treatments available no matter where they receive care, and instituting policies that seek to eliminate discrimination, end harassment, and hold perpetrators of sexual assault in the military accountable.

Finally, in this age of medical breakthroughs, I am going to remain committed to advancing the Precision Medicine Initiative started in the Obama-Biden Administration, including funding for the National Institutes on Health, and a renewed investment in the BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative.

4. REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT AND ENSURING EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

People with disabilities experience one of the highest rates of unemployment of any marginalized group, and these rates are highest for multiply marginalized people with disabilities. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2018, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was at 8%, which is more than two times higher than the 3.7% unemployment rate of people without disabilities. The next Administration must make employment and economic empowerment for people with disabilities a top priority.

A. REHABILITATION ACT



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Although legislation such as the Rehabilitation Act has served to advance and expand the opportunities of people with disabilities in the workforce, there are still many barriers that must be considered and overcome to increase employment for people with disabilities to comparable levels for people without disabilities.

- What will you do to strengthen Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act and ensure the federal government is a model employer of people with disabilities?

The Obama-Biden Administration made employment for people with disabilities a priority. We raised the minimum wage for employees of federal contractors--including those with disabilities--and issued an executive order focused solely on improving employment for people with disabilities. Moreover, we increased the percentage and actual number of workers with disabilities in the federal government to a higher level than at any time over the last three decades. I want to meet and exceed that accomplishment by leveraging the Schedule A Special Hiring Authority and aggressively enforcing Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act. I will ensure that my administration is working toward developing specific hiring and advancement goals for individuals with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities.

- How will you ensure the provisions under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act will be fully enforced by the Department of Labor and that Federal contractors will meet their affirmative action obligations under the law?

The Biden Administration will fully and aggressively enforce Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires that federal contractors “engage in affirmative action efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities.” My Administration will work with the disability community to issue a disability employment-focused executive order building on the Obama-Biden Administration’s progress to increase federal employment, including employment by federal contractors, for people with disabilities. During the Obama-Biden Administration, we proactively recruited people with disabilities and people with other diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to serve at all levels of government and launched a cross-agency initiative focused on increasing the employment of people with disabilities, across the federal government but also among federal contractors. Agencies were required to “help people with disabilities prepare to qualify for the array of jobs offered by federal contractors; connect federal contractors with jobs to qualified job seekers with disabilities; and provide federal contractors with the tools and resources they need to recruit, retain and promote people with disabilities.” Under our administration, we increased the percentage and actual number of workers with disabilities in the federal government to a higher level than at any time over the last three decades. I will build on that progress. I will ensure that my administration is working toward developing specific hiring and advancement goals for individuals with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities.

In addition, I will build on the Obama-Biden Administration’s commitment to higher minimum wages for federal contract employees--including those with disabilities--and work to further wage protections for workers with disabilities by enacting legislation eliminating the subminimum wage based on disability and assisting current subminimum wage employers to transition to integrated employers for people with disabilities, as called for in the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act.



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B. COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

Many people with disabilities are underemployed. People with disabilities who are working earn less on average than workers without disabilities with similar education levels. The median earnings for workers with disabilities is less than two-thirds the median wages for workers without disabilities (Disability Statistics & Demographics Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, 2011). Furthermore, Section 14c of the Fair Labor Standards Act authorizes employers to pay sub-minimum wages to workers who have disabilities, and many are still stuck working in segregated sheltered workshops. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) made a commitment to Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), which refers to work where people with disabilities earn the same wage as people without disabilities, have the same benefits and opportunities for advancement, and work alongside people without disabilities.

- Do you plan to phase out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act?

Yes. Under the Obama-Biden Administration, we issued an executive order “raising the minimum wage for workers on federal contracts,” including workers with disabilities. As President, I will work to further improve wage protections for workers with disabilities by enacting legislation eliminating the subminimum wage based on disability. This is the right thing to do for workers and our economy. Since the historic passage of the ADA in 1990, we’ve witnessed that people with disabilities have the ability to work with reasonable accommodations and their full participation in the workforce is not just morally and ethically right, it is good business. People with disabilities should be paid a fair wage consistent with national and state minimum wage laws—not a penny less.

- How will you expand supported employment services to people with disabilities?

A Biden Administration will ensure that workers with disabilities who need it have access to supported employment and customized employment services. The Obama-Biden Administration’s Department of Health and Human Services provided funding to increase state and local capacity to provide supported employment programs to adults with mental illness. As President, I will build on this work to ensure that supported employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people with mental illness are expanded. And, I will direct the Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration to enforce the integrated employment provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act consistent with the regulations issued in 2016. I will also restore the Department of Justice’s guidance on the application of the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision to employment services, which the Trump Administration revoked.

- How do you plan to build an infrastructure to address the underemployment and wage gap experienced by people with disabilities?

Our federal programs must meet the needs of people with disabilities so that they have a shot at the middle class. And it is also our job to enforce the ADA to ensure that employers are not discriminating against people with disabilities, and are providing reasonable accommodations for them to succeed at work. I will also call for new investments to dramatically overhaul and expand our nation’s transit system, committing to accessible infrastructure and livable streets as a strategy to pave the way for successful employment for people with disabilities and support their travel to and from work. I will increase affordable in-person and online training opportunities. I will also provide two years of community college or other high-quality training program



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without debt and will invest \$50 billion to create and support partnerships between high schools, community colleges, businesses, unions, and other workers to identify in-demand knowledge and skills in a community to develop or modernize training programs. And I will work with Congress to increase tax credits to employers as they hire people with disabilities and make their workplaces, both in offices and on-line, more accessible by passing the Disability Employment Incentive Act, doubling tax credits to employers and encouraging hiring of disabled workers at competitive wages.

- Are you committed to supporting competitive integrated employment? Will you support legislation such as the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act (H.R. 873/S. 260)?

Yes, I support the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act and its commitment to phasing out the subminimum wage and providing state and employer grants to move people with disabilities into jobs with higher pay that are alongside workers without disabilities.

C. TRANSITION FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Youth with disabilities often find themselves distanced from the opportunities to learn job skills through work in their formative years leading to unemployment and underemployment throughout their lives.

- How do you plan to engage youth with disabilities in pre-employment opportunities that will lead to successful transition from school to work and/or higher education?

Pre-employment opportunities are critical to participating in the U.S. economy and becoming financially independent, one of the key goals of the ADA. I will focus on three areas that all youth with disabilities should have access to: transition activities, including early work experiences; removing the barriers to postsecondary education programs; and opportunities for participating in postsecondary education, particularly for those who have been denied the chance to attend education programs after high school, such as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

While our country's high school graduation rate is at a record high, there is still far too large a gap between the graduation rate of students with disabilities and their peers without disabilities. Even once they do graduate and enroll in college, too many of them do not get the continued support they need to complete their degree and obtain a good job. As President, I will make sure that school districts are meeting their obligations under IDEA to provide transition services to all students with disabilities by the time they turn 16 and urge them to consider beginning transition activities at age 14, as IDEA permits. I will promote the activities developed based on evidence and incorporated into PROMISE Initiative, the seven-year experiment launched by the Obama-Biden Administration and just concluded this year, found to have made a difference in preparing for transition to employment.

Youth with disabilities often do not have the chance to volunteer, hold a part-time job, observe professionals during career days, or to job shadow possible mentors. All of those activities must become available to young people with disabilities. In my administration, I will make sure students with disabilities have access to those models, mentors, and activities to promote awareness of and skill development to increase transition to employment. I will charge the Director of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to ensure that programs supporting service-learning in schools and full-time service across the nation incorporate



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youth with disabilities. The Office of Disability Employment Policy and the National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) cited these experiences in the Guideposts for Success as valuable opportunities for on-the-job training to help prepare disabled youth for jobs.

Postsecondary education experiences are also a key factor in transitioning from school to employment and to better economic health. As a country we must improve the opportunities we provide for young people with disabilities when it comes to postsecondary education, including, not only four year colleges and universities, but also community college programs and industry approved certificate programs that often make it possible for people to have stable, fruitful careers. One of the key barriers to postsecondary education is the continuation of accommodations that many youth with disabilities receive in pre K-12 schooling. These accommodations often make it possible for disabled youth to learn and benefit from the general education curriculum. We must make the transfer of those accommodations to postsecondary programs as easy as possible. Identifying accommodations sometimes takes years and once they are in place, students should be able to continue them. I will direct my Department of Education to provide guidance to all postsecondary programs to accept the accommodations disabled students have been using in preK-12 settings to be used in postsecondary settings. I will also work with Congress to pass the RISE Act, the Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Act (S. 1585) that will require postsecondary programs to accept the accommodations used by disabled youth and reduce the cost and time necessary to re-prove their need for accommodations.

I will also direct my Department of Education to conduct a comprehensive review of how postsecondary programs support youth who have a mental health disability or develop one during their college age years. I will create a commission that will review the best ways to support students with mental health disabilities, ensure their civil rights are enforced, and work to expand the supports they need to participate in postsecondary education, especially focusing on their opportunities to pause their education and then return when they are ready.

Finally, we need to ensure that intellectually and developmentally disabled youth have a path to postsecondary education and competitive integrated employment. For too long, we have funneled youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities into subminimum wage workshops where they have spent 20, 30, 40 years earning less than minimum wage and having no opportunity to become financially independent. For over a decade now, the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (TPSIDs) have provided funding to community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities to create inclusive postsecondary programs for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). There are now over 250 programs around the country. But that is not enough. Many who attend college do not graduate and according to the National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors, only 14.7% of adults with I/DD disabilities are employed. The next generation of TPSID programs must ensure that young people with I/DD are able to take advantage of all aspects of postsecondary education, such as living on campus, taking classes with non-disabled peers, having access to all aspects of college life their non-disabled peers have and having the opportunity to earn an industry approved certificate or a institutionally approved degree. And TPSID programs, while having expanded significantly over the past decade, must become the norm, among community college and 4-year programs.



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- How would you reform the public workforce system to ensure people with disabilities, especially youth with disabilities, are fully integrated into the economic development of regional economies?

I will ensure that the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program is funded and implemented so that people with disabilities can get the information and support they need to successfully transition to work. We also must continue to ensure that our nation’s One-Stop job centers are accessible to disabled workers and that they work closely with state Vocational Rehabilitation offices to ensure people with disabilities have the support they need to be prepared for competitive integrated employment. Job centers should be serving people with disabilities and ensuring workers with and without disabilities are being served in integrated settings.

Earning limits under Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) can hinder people with disabilities ability to engage in employment or internship opportunities but depend on SSI or SSDI funds. The substantial gainful activity (SGA) limit for both the SSI and SSDI programs keeps people with disabilities fearful of losing their benefits, especially health care and long-term services and supports coverage. I will work with Congress to increase SGA for people with disabilities in order to eliminate barriers to economic independence.

Employers should have incentives to employ youth with disabilities as we work to overcome the stigma associated with being disabled. To increase incentives for employers to hire disabled workers, I will work to pass the Disability Employment Incentive Act (S. 255), which will provide any employer hiring a person with a disability with a \$5,000 tax credit the first year and \$2,500 if the worker with a disability completes a second year of employment. The bill will also provide up to \$30,000 in tax credits to improve the accessibility of their workplace, including their on-line presence. Finally, small businesses will have an additional tax credit of up to \$10,000 for making their workplaces more accessible to workers with disabilities.

D. ENSURING APPROPRIATE FLEXIBILITY IN PUBLIC PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE WORKFORCE

Of the federal and state expenditures combined for working age people with disabilities, 41 percent is spent on income benefits (e.g., SSI and SSDI) and 55 percent on health care (Medicaid and Medicare). 1.2 percent of federal and state expenditures go to educating, training, and employment programs for people with disabilities.

- With 4.6 million people with disabilities on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and 8.9 million people on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), how would your Administration reform these federal income support programs so people with disabilities can receive income supports while working so they can secure employment or return to employment sooner?

We must address this challenge with a holistic look at SSI, SSDI, Medicaid and other programs to figure out how to support people with disabilities who can and want to work. In order to be eligible for benefits, SSDI applicants must make a declaration that they are unable to work. It will be a priority of my administration to come up with a holistic plan to support people with disabilities that can work, as well as those that are unable to work. One of the most important components of that holistic plan is to address the substantial gainful activity (SGA) limit for both the SSI and SSDI programs. The SGA keeps people with disabilities in poverty and fearful of losing their benefits, especially health care and long-term services and supports coverage. I will work with Congress to increase SGA for people with disabilities in order to eliminate barriers to economic independence.



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We need to do more to help employers acquire the assistive technologies needed for people with disabilities to fully participate in the workplace. The Obama-Biden Administration was committed to ensuring that accessible technology was available to Americans with disabilities. For example, the White House worked with the Cabinet to “improve the acquisition and implementation of accessible technology.” As President, I will build on this initiative and work with Congress and the disability community to incentivize employers to develop and obtain more assistive technology to help create a more inclusive workplace. The nationwide but seriously underfunded state assistive technology programs must be expanded and must become connected to the programs that reach all people with disabilities such as the the Centers for Independent Living (CILs), local Arcs, the University Centers on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), and other state and local disability grassroots groups. We must also have a far better system to both provide and use augmentative, alternative and supported communication strategies for those who have communication disabilities. Assisting disability run organizations, schools, CILs, UCEDDs, and other groups support and disseminate information about communication strategies will enable people with communication disabilities to break down barriers to employment.

I will also reverse damage done by the Trump Administration. President Trump announced that he wants to change the Social Security rules for people who get disability benefits, including SSI and SSDI. His proposed change would require many to re-verify their disability every two years, a tough enough process to get through once. This proposed change would endanger the benefits of thousands of recipients. It affects those with significant disabilities who will need to collect massive amounts of information to, again, prove they have a disability that qualifies them for SSI or SSDI. We already have a clogged system, with some of the toughest requirements to receive benefits. There are also very few lawyers available to assist those who receive SSI or SSDI to help them re-prove their eligibility. With these proposed changes, the Trump Administration is targeting older adults with disabilities nearing retirement, children with disabilities, and people with certain medical conditions including cancer and behavioral mental disorders. Enough is enough. If approved by the Trump administration, I will rescind this harmful, mean-spirited proposal.

The Trump Administration is also attacking those eligible for SSI and SSDI by proposing to shift the power to decide appeals from independent administrative law judges to employees of the Social Security Administration. This is a significant and potentially harmful and discriminatory change. While Social Security Administrative Appeals Judges are career professionals, their evaluations and employment are controlled by the executive branch. We cannot risk the appeals process being moved from decisions made by independent judges to decisions that could be determined by employees of the agency that will benefit from fewer beneficiaries. When it comes to decisions as important as deciding the eligibility of SSI and SSDI benefits, we must have independent judges, otherwise, such decisions could be controlled by the political motives rather than by law.

The Trump Administration is also now considering changing the requirements for eligibility for the SSI and SSDI programs. As reported in the Wall Street Journal, if the proposal is approved, the Trump Administration will no longer consider age, employment history, or education level when determining eligibility for SSI or SSDI. The report cites the Trump Administration as saying that there are too many individuals who qualify for



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these programs and that work is no longer as difficult, and therefore as disability inducing, as in the past. This effort is clearly another one of the Trump Administration's steps in attacking people with disabilities, removing long-term services and supports, and eliminating the services needed to be economically stable. My administration will work to strengthen SSI, SSDI and all programs that support people with disabilities and modernize the programs to ensure they support people by encouraging work and retaining their benefits, particularly their access to health care.

- Medicaid eligibility and programmatic requirements now create barriers for individuals with disabilities entering or returning to the workplace because they cannot access needed supports such as personal care attendants, power wheelchairs, complex rehab technology, other rehabilitation devices and services, home and community based services, medical supplies, and therapies. Do you support initiatives that would allow workers with disabilities to continue to work past age 65, maintain eligibility from state to state, and carry their Medicaid benefits into private employment settings? How would you work with the private sector to address the critical independent living supports that many private insurance programs do not cover for people with disabilities?

It is wrong that workers with disabilities lose their Medicaid eligibility when returning to the workforce. I will work to improve the Medicaid buy-in program, which allows workers to reclaim their Medicaid benefits, including allowing those over 65 to qualify and permanently authorizing it. I will ensure my Department of Health and Human Services stops states from privatizing Medicaid and allowing private companies to profit off Medicaid while cutting services for those who need them the most. I will also expand primary care and innovative health care delivery models in rural communities. One way I will do this is by building new health clinics and deploying telehealth in rural America. I will work with private insurers to develop approaches to integrated care that include access to the services and supports that allow one to live and work in the community.

We also need to make the workplace more accessible for people with disabilities. The Obama-Biden Administration's Department of Health and Human Services provided funding to increase state and local capacity to provide supported employment programs. As President, I will build on this work to ensure that supported employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are expanded. I will direct the Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration to enforce the integrated employment provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act consistent with the regulations issued in 2016. Finally, my administration will restore the Department of Justice's guidance on the application of the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision to employment services.

The Obama-Biden Administration was committed to ensuring that accessible technology was available to Americans with disabilities. For example, the White House worked with the Cabinet to "improve the acquisition and implementation of accessible technology". As President, I will build on this initiative and work with Congress and the disability community to incentivize employers to develop and obtain more assistive technology to help create a more inclusive workplace. I will reauthorize and fund the Assistive Technology Act (ATA) of 2004 ensuring greater access and availability of assistive technology and accessible communication as well as universal design through federal grants and programs.



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- How will your administration preserve the benefits of SNAP, TANF. Food insecurity and barriers to economic opportunity disproportionately impact people with disabilities. What will your administration do to preserve programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

SNAP and TANF are essential programs that need to be protected and improved to provide for those who need them. I will start by revoking rules proposed by the Trump Administration designed to restrict access to these critical programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed stricter work requirements for those wishing to become eligible for SNAP. Additionally, USDA restricted states from automatically enrolling families in SNAP if they already were enrolled in another government program. Finally, the Trump Administration would establish a new national standard utility allowance (SUA) rather than allowances to differ across states. According to an Urban Institute study, these three rules together would reduce the number of SNAP-eligible individuals by 3.7 million each month and 2.2 million households would lose an average of nearly \$130 per month and another 3.1 would lose an average of \$37 per month. Meanwhile, nearly 1 million students would no longer receive free or reduced price lunches. The Urban Institute calculates “households that include an adult age 60 or older or someone with a disability would most likely be affected by the proposed change to SUA.”

5. EDUCATION

Due to the enactment and implementation of a key civil rights law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, or the “special education” law), high school graduation rates for people with disabilities have increased 45 percent since 1995, with an associated decrease in dropout rates for students with disabilities. Similarly, enrollment in college has doubled for students with disabilities. Nevertheless, local school districts struggle to serve students with disabilities and students with disabilities seeking a higher education continue to face enormous barriers to success, and high school and college graduation rates for students with disabilities remain lower than their able-bodied peers.

A. IDEA FUNDING

When IDEA was passed in 1975, Congress pledged to fund 40% of the differential cost of serving students with disabilities. The closest the federal government has come to meeting that pledge is 19% in 2010. Higher levels of funding will ensure more students with disabilities receive the supports they need in K-12, are able to complete high school, and have the opportunity to go on to postsecondary education and postsecondary employment.

- Do you support funding IDEA at higher levels?

Yes. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), signed into law in 1975, promised to provide 40% of the extra cost of special education required by the bill. Currently, the federal government only covers roughly 14% of this cost, failing to live up to our commitment. As President, I will fully fund this obligation within ten years. We must ensure that children with disabilities get the education and training they



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need to succeed. But it's not just about money. As President, I will appoint a Secretary of Education with a true commitment to the full inclusion of students with disabilities. I will make the enforcement of IDEA's promise of a free appropriate public education a major priority through the Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs and the Office for Civil Rights. My administration will also make sure that at the federal, state, and local level, the needs of students with disabilities are part of all discussions of policy and practice from the very beginning. Inclusion isn't just the law – it's who we are as a nation. As President, I will make it happen.

- What will you do to ensure that children with disabilities are afforded equal educational opportunity, including the services they need to be educated alongside non-disabled peers in their neighborhood schools rather than being placed in separate schools and separate classrooms?

I also will direct my Secretary of Education to fully enforce the IDEA requirement that students with disabilities be educated in the least restrictive environment. The Trump Administration suspended the Obama-Biden Administration's guidance on the use of exclusionary discipline practices with disproportionate impact on students with disabilities and students of color. Students with disabilities deserve equal access to the general education classroom, and should have meaningful recourse when subject to disproportionate disciplinary practices or segregation from the general education classroom. The Obama-Biden Administration's Department of Education worked to keep students with disabilities safe in their classrooms by providing resources to dramatically reduce or eliminate the use of seclusion and physical restraint and by issuing guidance to public schools regarding the limits required under Federal law on the use of seclusion and physical restraints on students with disabilities. I will build on this work by continuing to protect our students from the dangers of physical restraint and seclusion.

The Trump Administration also attempted to delay the Obama-Biden Administration's regulation on the disproportionate identification of students of color as having disabilities. I will fully implement this regulation and provide more guidance and support to states and school districts to help them appropriately identify students for special education services and provide them the resources they need.

The Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, also requires states and school districts to examine disaggregated data for students with disabilities and determine if schools are persistently struggling to serve these students. My Administration will ensure that states are identifying places where students with disabilities need more support, and will provide school districts with tools to conduct resource equity audits to make sure that students with disabilities are receiving the resources they need to achieve at high levels.

B. CURRICULUM AND TRANSITION

In some localities, students with disabilities are not taught the challenging curriculum available to students without disabilities.

- How would you ensure that students with disabilities have the same access to ambitious educational opportunities that other students have?

The vast majority of students with disabilities can master the general education curriculum and grade-level standards, with the appropriate supports and services. Unfortunately, in too many cases, general education



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teachers do not feel they have the preparation, professional development, and support they need to address the needs of students with disabilities in their classrooms. As President, I will increase resources available to educators by fully funding IDEA and tripling funding for Title I. I will also direct the Department of Education to help teacher preparation programs ensure that all teacher candidates have the ability to support students with disabilities in their classrooms.

Despite legal requirements to provide necessary services and supports to students with disabilities in higher education, postsecondary institutions are not meeting their needs. As President, I will increase funding for programs under the Higher Education Act designed to expand postsecondary education for people with disabilities, including the Model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities and Coordinating Center.

I will also appoint a Secretary of Education who understands and values the needs of students with disabilities. Through the Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs and Office for Civil Rights, my Secretary of Education and I will enforce the IDEA's promise a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and support the ability of our schools to deliver on that promise by fully funding IDEA and tripling funding for Title I. My Secretary of Education will also enforce ESSA's requirement that states and districts incorporate the progress of students with disabilities into their school performance systems and drive resources and supports to schools that are not meeting the needs of their students with disabilities.

- How would you increase the number of high school graduates with disabilities and what would you do to ensure more college graduates with disabilities secure employment and are hired by the private sector?

While our country's high school graduation rate is at a record high, there is still far too large a gap between the graduation rate of students with disabilities and their peers without disabilities. Even once they do graduate and enroll in college, too many of them do not get the continued support they need to complete their degree and obtain a good job. As President, I will make sure that school districts are meeting their obligations under IDEA to provide transition services for all students with disabilities by the time they turn 16, including a plan for transition into postsecondary education if that aligns with the student's interests and preferences. I will also direct the Department of Education to provide additional guidance to states and school districts on ensuring that all pathways to college and the workforce, including advanced coursework, dual enrollment opportunities, and high quality career and technical education pathways, are accessible to all students with disabilities.

A Biden Administration will ensure that workers with disabilities who need it have access to supported employment and customized employment services. The Obama-Biden Administration's Department of Health and Human Services provided funding to increase state and local capacity to provide supported employment programs to adults with mental illness. As President, I will build on this work to ensure that supported employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people with mental illness are expanded. And, I will direct the Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration to enforce the integrated employment provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act consistent with



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the regulations issued in 2016. I will also restore the Obama-Biden Administration Department of Justice’s guidance on the application of the Supreme Court’s *Olmstead* decision to employment services.

C. ELIMINATING BULLYING

Bullying of students with disabilities is a long-standing problem. In fact, over 85 percent of students with disabilities have experienced some form of bullying.

- Do you support amending the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to protect young students with disabilities from bullying, require state educational agencies and local school districts systems to report incidents of bullying, and to provide interventions to reduce bullying?

When I was a kid, bullies made fun of me for having a stutter. I’ll be a President who understands that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. So yes, I support putting an end to bullying in schools. Let’s find a solution for all of us.

The Obama-Biden Administration made tackling bullying a priority. Our Department of Education worked to improve school climate and reduce bullying for all students, and particularly for students with disabilities, by issuing guidance on when bullying is a violation of a students’ civil rights, investing in school climate transformation grants and working with states and school districts to rethink discipline to create more positive environments for teaching and learning and reduce bullying and harassment. But more needs to be done. I support the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA), which will require every school district to develop policies related to bullying and harassment.

D. PROHIBITING THE USE OF RESTRAINTS AND SECLUSION

The use of physical restraints and seclusion is a prevalent issue in public schools. There are many reports that show adults who restrain students with disabilities are tying, taping, and trapping students in chairs and equipment, forcing them into locked seclusion rooms, and depriving them of necessities.

- Do you support the Keeping All Students Safe Act? How would your Administration address the issues around restraint and seclusion in schools?

Yes. I support the Keeping All Students Safe Act. The Obama-Biden Administration’s Department of Education worked to keep students with disabilities safe in their classrooms by providing resources on the use of seclusion and physical restraint and by issuing guidance to public schools regarding the limits required under Federal law on the use of seclusion and physical restraints on students with disabilities. I will build on this work by continuing to protect our students from dangerous physical restraint and seclusion.

In addition, I will ensure the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), conducted by the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education, continues and expands. The CRDC helps us to identify and act on the disproportionate use of restraint and other disciplinary actions. I will ensure that the data collected through the CRDC effort is accurate and accessible to the public and school leaders.

E. EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities frequently lack access to the general education classroom.



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- What steps will you take to expand access to the general education classroom and broader inclusion for students with disabilities?

I will appoint a Secretary of Education who understands and values the needs of students with disabilities. Through the Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs and Office for Civil Rights, my Secretary of Education and I will enforce the IDEA’s promise of a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and support the ability of our schools to deliver on that promise by fully funding IDEA and tripling funding for Title I. My Secretary of Education will also ensure that states and districts are incorporating the progress of students with disabilities into their school performance systems and driving resources and supports to schools that are not meeting the needs of their students with disabilities. I will fully implement the special education disproportionality regulation that we put in place during the Obama-Biden Administration. Students with disabilities deserve equal access to the general education classroom, and should have meaningful recourse when subject to disproportionate disciplinary practices or segregation from the general education classroom.

We also need to make sure our teachers and schools have the resources to help students with disabilities. In a Biden Administration, teachers will be able to serve as mentors and coaches to other teachers and as leaders of professional learning communities, and will be compensated for that additional work they take on. These funds will also be used to help teachers who choose to earn an additional certification in a high-demand area – like special education or bilingual education – while they are still teaching do so without accumulating debt.

My administration will also double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals in our schools so our kids get the mental health care they need. The current school psychologist to student ratio in this country is roughly 1,400 to 1, while experts say it should be at most 700 to 1. That’s a gap of about 35,000 to 60,000 school psychologists.

- What would you do to make sure students with disabilities have accessible curriculum and that teachers have the support they need to provide it?

Some of the most tremendous innovations are at their core assistive technologies. The importance of the “curb cut effect”—measures designed for the benefit of people with disabilities that also helps all people — has created a more accessible world that empowers everyone. The Obama-Biden Administration was committed to ensuring that accessible technology was available to Americans with disabilities. For example, the White House worked with the Cabinet to “improve the acquisition and implementation of accessible technology.” By fully funding IDEA, we will provide resources to acquire the assistive technologies needed for people with disabilities to fully participate in the classroom. My administration also will support and promote universal design.

6. AFFORDABLE, INTEGRATED, and ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

The ADA’s integration mandate and the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision provide people with disabilities



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with critically important rights — to live, work, and receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate. These rights have enabled tens of thousands of people with disabilities to move from institutions into their own homes and communities, and to get the services they need to secure real jobs at competitive wages in the community. Despite this, the lack of enforcement has resulted in 700,000 disabled people being wait-listed to receive home and community-based services; 70,000 disabled people still being institutionalized; and 1.5-7 million disabled people still living in nursing homes.

- Enforcement by the Department of Justice has been particularly important, although it has been dependent on the priorities of each Administration. Would you make robust enforcement of the ADA’s integration mandate and *Olmstead* decision a priority in your Administration?

This year of 2020 is the 30th anniversary of the passage of the ADA. Despite three decades working to fulfill the goals of the law, Congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration continue to attack equal access for people with disabilities -- including attempts to undermine the ADA. The work to guarantee rights to disabled Americans is not yet finished. *Olmsted* mandated that the government support the ability of people with disabilities to “live, work, and receive services” in integrated settings appropriate to their needs. My administration will work to expand the availability of accessible housing, transportation and high-quality home- and community-based settings for people with disabilities, so that all people with disabilities have access to the most integrated setting appropriate for their needs. My administration also will make enforcing the ADA and the rights affirmed by the *Olmstead* decision a priority.

- The lack of affordable, accessible housing has taken an egregious toll on the lives of people with disabilities who continue to be warehoused in nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, board and care homes, DD (developmental disabilities) institutions, and other institutional settings. Disabled individuals want housing in mainstream buildings (or scattered-site housing) and not “special” buildings for “special” people. As President, what will you do to address the need for affordable, integrated accessible housing for people with disabilities?

I am committed to ensuring people with disabilities have the housing or other social services they may need and fully enforce the Fair Housing Act’s nondiscrimination mandate. According to the Arc, “complaints by people with disabilities often make up the majority of discrimination complaints received by HUD’s Fair Housing Enforcement Office and other fair housing agencies.” And in reality, accessible housing is often unaffordable, leaving people with disabilities homeless, institutionalized or trading daily needs for an unaffordable rent. My administration will fully enforce the Fair Housing Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and ADA prohibition on discrimination based on disability, and the Architectural Barriers Act requirement that “buildings and facilities designed, constructed, altered or leased with federal funds after September 1968 be accessible by people with disabilities.” I also will ensure that federal investments in existing and new housing stock promotes accessibility and universal design. And I will increase affordable supportive and accessible housing for seniors and people with disabilities, through the Supportive Housing for the Elderly program (“Section 202”) and Supportive Housing for Individuals with Disabilities (“Section 811”).

7. TRANSPORTATION



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Access to affordable and reliable transportation allows people with disabilities important opportunities to go to school, work, take care of their health, live where they desire, and participate in all aspects of community life. Because our nation's investments in transportation infrastructure have disproportionately favored vehicles and highways, those who cannot afford vehicles or do not operate vehicles often lack viable transportation options.

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Access to public transportation is a key to independence and full community participation for people with disabilities.

- What would you do to expand access to affordable and accessible transportation for people with disabilities, especially in rural areas?

In order to live a barrier-free life, people with disabilities, including people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, are blind or have low vision must have accessible transportation in order to live, attend school, work, shop, access health care, and participate in the community. As President, I will promote universal design and affordable, accessible public and private transportation. I will direct the U.S. Department of Transportation to enforce ADA compliance and accommodations, and to avoid discrimination, ensuring that transportation entities are accessible to people with disabilities.

A project by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NATC) did a tremendous job outlining some of the challenges for rural transportation of people with disabilities, including limited funding, restrictions on available funding, limitations on trip purposes, days and hours of service, and distance, lack of accessible vehicles and equivalent service. This provides a roadmap to address transportation barriers. My administration will implement policies to address these barriers, exploring how increased federal funding to increase accessible transportation and expand services to better meet the needs of all residents including the needs of disabled travelers.

Outside major cities, many Americans -- including many with disabilities -- do not have access to high-quality, reliable public transportation; and within urban areas, it's often in need of repair. In addition, all too often public transit fails to comply with ADA. As President, I will aim to provide all Americans in municipalities of more than 100,000 people with quality, accessible public transportation by 2030. To that end, I will increase flexible federal investments, help cities and towns to install light rail networks and to improve existing transit and bus lines. And, I will work to make sure that new, fast-growing areas are designed and built with public transit in mind. Specifically, I will create a new program that gives rapidly expanding communities the resources to build in public transit options from the start. Whether improving existing systems or creating new public transit options, those systems will be accessible to all people with disabilities and people with disabilities will be included in the design and implementation of those systems.

B. TRANSPORTATION NETWORKING COMPANIES

Transportation networking companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft have the potential to increase transportation options for people with disabilities. Unfortunately, TNCs have discriminated against people with disabilities by refusing rides to individuals with service animals and individuals using wheelchairs.



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- What would your Administration do to ensure all people with disabilities have access to the services provided by TNC's?

Technology is disrupting traditional modes of transportation. New entrants to the on-demand transportation marketplace sometimes struggle to provide an accessible service. These innovations hold tremendous promise and we need to make certain that everyone benefits. My administration will investigate and prosecute where we find that TNC's have not complied with laws against discrimination, including the ADA. But most importantly, as new innovations are developed, I will create both guidance and incentives for researchers, scientists, venture capitalists, and all entrepreneurs to include people with disabilities from the beginning. There is no reason to exclude people with disabilities from disruptive economies. In fact, starting with the ideas, creativity and needs of people with disabilities will be one of the ways that we grow our great economy.

C. AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

As autonomous or self-driving vehicles move towards becoming a reality, they promise new mobility options and increased independence for people with disabilities who have missed out on the benefits of a century of automotive history.

- What will your administration do to ensure that the automobile industry begins to build personal passenger cars that are accessible to a wide range of people with disabilities, including those that use wheelchairs?

As President, I will promote universal design and affordable, accessible public and private transportation. I will direct the U.S. Department of Transportation to enforce ADA compliance and accommodations, and to avoid discrimination, ensuring that transportation entities are accessible to people with disabilities. The development of autonomous vehicles must be conducted in a manner where disabled consumers, across the disability spectrum, are included as developers from the beginning of that development. The default platform for autonomous vehicles must be universal access, not the unsuccessful method of designing for the "average" and then adapting the design. Universal design is the way to include all people in the successful development of products and there is no more important area for this to occur than in the transportation sector.

D. AIR TRAVEL

Air travel can be complicated for everyone, but people with disabilities encounter many additional barriers to air travel. From the time they enter the airport, they are faced with obstacles that not only result in frequent delays and missed flights, but they also put their dignity and safety at risk. People with disabilities frequently experience inaccessible facilities and equipment in airports, overly intrusive and discriminatory TSA security screenings, breakage of mobility and medical equipment, unsafe and harmful transport and transfers by airport staff, inaccessible aircraft facilities and amenities, and additional fees. Air travel can be extremely difficult for people with disabilities, including those who must travel for work, sometimes rendering it nearly impossible.

- As President, what would you do to address this issue?

First and foremost, my administration will take steps to ensure that federal employees do not discriminate and work to make air travel easier, not harder for people with disabilities while maintaining a strict level of security and safety for all passengers. My administration will also hold airlines accountable for compliance with laws against discrimination and for reasonable accommodations. The Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) is a law that



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specifically makes it illegal for airlines to discriminate against passengers because of their disability. In my administration, the Department of Transportation will enforce the ACAA and as new technologies are being developed to improve accommodations on airplanes for people with disabilities, my Department of Transportation will work to incorporate and promote these new technologies.

Finally, in-flight entertainment is not accessible to all disabled passengers, while airlines are starting to make changes so safety and information videos and announcements are accessible. For those with sensory, reading, intellectual, communication and other types of disabilities, critical safety announcements in terminals and on-board are often not accessible. I will work to ensure individual video systems on airlines are open and closed caption ready and have the option of picture-in-picture American Sign Language as a language option. I will also work to ensure flights without individual video displays have communication systems that make critical safety and information announcements available to all travels.

8. TECHNOLOGY

Accessible mainstream communication and information technologies, as well as assistive and adaptive technologies, often allow people with disabilities to secure and maintain employment, participate in educational activities, and experience entertainment like everyone else.

A. SECTION 508 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

The U.S. Congress enacted Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act in 1973, a statute that requires the federal government to purchase information technology that is accessible to and usable by employees with disabilities in the federal government and by customers with disabilities accessing federal government services online. Despite this long standing requirement, many federal websites and online government services remain inaccessible to users who are blind, people with low vision, people with intellectual disabilities, and other disabilities.

- Would you make it a priority to ensure federal agencies make their websites and all other information technology accessible? How will you implement this?

There are tremendous barriers to equal access for individuals with disabilities in digital media. More and more aspects of daily life are facilitated by digital access, but not accessible to people with disabilities. I will make it a priority to ensure that all government websites are properly coded with accessibility in mind, and push for full inclusion through universal design and innovative use of developing software like facial recognition, while balancing the needs for privacy, security, and safety.

B. THE INTERNET OF THINGS

The Internet of Things, including smart homes and other connected devices, has the potential to increase the independence and community integration of people with disabilities. Connected devices are being developed and released for sale at breakneck speed with new devices coming to market often without any accessibility or usability requirements. Universal design and accessibility features must be included in these devices in order for the Internet of Things to realize the potential it has to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. Under Title II and III of the ADA, people with disabilities have access to modifications, accommodations, and



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auxiliary aides or services to participate in the activities and services of both local and state government and places of public accommodations, a protection that currently does not exist on the Internet of Things.

- What will you do to ensure that people with disabilities have the same access to the Internet of Things as provided to non-disabled individuals?

The Internet of Things holds tremendous promise for people with disabilities – if they are engaged and involved in its development from the beginning and as full partners. In my administration, we will be a model for inclusive design in technologies developed and adopted by government agencies. As recommended by the Future of Privacy Forum, I will support the creation of cross-sector collaborations among disabled leaders, advocates, academia, policymakers, and industry to “adapt the use of the IoT for people with disabilities and develop IoT solutions that meet the current and anticipated needs of such people.” We must ensure that people with disabilities are part of the design process for these technologies, ensuring that their accessibility and the privacy of people are appropriately considered.

- What steps will your Administration take to address the digital divide to ensure that all people with disabilities have access to the Internet, including those that rely on social security income supports?

The digital divide is a barrier to the independence that we sought to achieve with the ADA and that was reinforced in the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision. As the National Council on Disability has already pointed out, “digital barriers to our networked economy can reinforce rather than break down disproportionately low employment among people with disabilities. . . [and] new technologies create opportunities for people with disabilities to work alongside non-disabled colleagues.” In my administration, I will work to ensure access to the internet for people with disabilities, embracing NCD’s recommendations to work “through the current infrastructure of community and technical colleges and industry partnerships,” while expanding internet access and improving assistive technology. I will call on agencies and offices across my administration to collaborate and commit resources to help people with disabilities to acquire appropriate job skills for the new digital economy.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Climate change is intensifying the frequency and duration of disasters around the world, including in the United States. In 2017 and 2018, the U.S. experienced 122 major disasters. People with disabilities and older adults are disproportionately impacted by disasters, during which, they are two to four times more likely to die or be injured. Yet, disability and aging communities are excluded from disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery.

Since hurricane Katrina, over \$700 billion dollars in federal funding has been spent on disaster related preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation initiatives. However, federal oversight and enforcement have failed to ensure compliance with the equal access requirements of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA.

- Under your leadership, what policy changes will you make to ensure people with disabilities have full access to programs and resources before, during, and after disasters?



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In the Obama-Biden Administration, we prioritized whole community readiness and built a national disability inclusive approach to emergency preparedness and disaster response, recovery and mitigation. We established the FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination which engaged national disability organizations, community leaders and stakeholders as partners; developed and implemented training for emergency managers and local communities on planning for emergencies and improving disability inclusive disaster resilience; and we built a disaster response cadre, with disability inclusion experts in each of the federal regions. During the Obama-Biden Administration, FEMA hired 285 disability specialists as cadre members. These specialists advised our presidentially appointed Federal Coordinating Officers and the federal responders throughout response and recovery, and they joined in providing training and technical assistance to state leaders to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities were met.

Despite all of this effort to improve outcomes, President Trump's response to disasters has been a disgrace, especially in our territories, but also throughout catastrophic disasters impacting mainland US communities. In 2018, FEMA's budget was transferred from FEMA to ICE to help U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement -- just as Hurricane Florence was about to hit North Carolina and South Carolina. FEMA no longer works in partnership with national disability organizations, the Cadre has been significantly reduced, training has been eliminated and FEMA only deploys a handful of disability specialists to states. A recent report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reinforced the extent of the challenges. In my administration, it will be a priority to act on the GAO's recommendations, and the recommendations made by the National Council on Disability in their 2019 report to President Trump, "Preserving Our Freedom: Ending Institutionalization of People with Disabilities During and After Disasters" and to work with Congress to ensure funds and authority are sufficient to fully implement those recommendations.

- If elected, will you support the Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion in Disasters Act (REAADI) and the Disaster Relief Medicaid Act (DRM)?

Yes, I support the REAADI Act and the Disaster Relief Medicaid Act (DRM) and look forward to working with Congress on providing dedicated training and resources for emergency managers, government agencies, disability organizations and Medicaid recipients who must evacuate from their service area in a disaster and ensuring people with disabilities are participants in developing plans and responses to disasters. Those who are eligible for Medicaid and have been receiving long-term services and supports should not lose their services because they have been forced to move to another state because of a disaster. When disasters occur, we will act quickly to ensure people eligible for Medicaid who were forced to move to another state will continue to receive their Medicaid services. DRM will make it possible to effectively and efficiently create agreements among states to continue serving those using Medicaid services, especially long-term services and supports, without the interruption in LTSS and health care services needed.



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- As President, will you empower and adequately resource your Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to monitor and enforce all disability civil rights obligations before, during and after disasters?

Yes, I will significantly increase the resources for monitoring and enforcing the civil rights of disaster impacted people with disabilities and direct the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development to enforce all disability civil rights obligations before, during and after disasters.