

State Office: Senate District: 20

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<http://clydewinter.wordpress.com/2008/08/06/choice-for-a-change/>

Questionnaire

1. As a legislator, what are the three issues you will prioritize in the next legislative session?

1. End the health care crisis With the Health Security Act or Healthy Wisconsin.

<http://clydewinter.wordpress.com/category/health-care-crisis/>

2. End legalized bribery employing the recommendations of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign www.wisdnc.org

<http://clydewinter.wordpress.com/category/legalized-bribery/>

3. Close the loopholes that allow big corporations to avoid paying their fair share.

www.wisconsinfuture.org

2. Studies indicate that one in four Wisconsinites have diagnosable mental illness and would benefit from effective treatment. In addition, mental illness is the leading cause of disability for working age adults in the United States. People often can not access effective treatment, frequently citing affordability as a barrier. What will you do as a legislator to increase access to effective treatment and community services?

Mental illness is a significant health problem, and should be treated appropriately, according to best state of the art scientific knowledge, not ignored and stigmatized.

See priority number one answer to question number one.

See my published articles on the health care crisis at:

<http://clydewinter.wordpress.com/category/health-care-crisis/>

3. Poverty is a reality for many people with disabilities in Wisconsin. Consider these facts, from the American Association of People with Disabilities.

- 27.5% of people with disabilities aged 18-64 live below the poverty line.

- The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is three times higher than for people without disabilities.
- The SSI supplement for Wisconsinites with disabilities has not increased in over ten years.

As a legislator, what will you do to address poverty for people with disabilities?

Poverty is an absence of the necessities of life, including the conditions to permit the enjoyment of life. Poverty should only be a condition of life for the disabled, or for each of us, when it accompanies a voluntary vow or an informed choice. Children, elders, the afflicted, the disabled, the dying, should never be consigned to poverty. Universal comprehensive health care is a hallmark of a modern, humane society. And so is the absence of poverty. All necessary and prudent steps to alleviate and eliminate poverty should be taken by individuals, groups, and by the legislature.

4. One of your constituents contacts you. She is a 68 year old woman whose 70 year old husband has just had a stroke and is now in a nursing home. They have a 46 year old daughter with cerebral palsy who has always lived at home.

Up until now, the family has been providing their daughter's personal care as well as help with mobility and transfers, for example in and out of the bathtub. Now with dad in the nursing home, mom cannot care for their daughter alone. The family is covered by Medicare and the daughter is Medicaid eligible.

All the family's available resources have been expended through caring for their daughter and dad's nursing home costs. Your constituent needs help to provide the assistance her daughter needs and she does not know where to turn. Please describe how you would handle this situation as a legislator and what specific steps you would take to assist this constituent.

In the first place, the fact that the constituent had no place to turn other than the legislator, indicates a possible breakdown in the provision of essential services at the point of contact with a stressed family. This must be investigated and corrected. Is it a rare case? Is there a problem with a particular institution? Or is the problem systemic?

Second, unless I personally have the requisite knowledge and capacity to directly and immediately provide the help sought (and I currently do not possess that knowledge), I would direct a member of the legislative staff with the necessary knowledge and ability to assist and investigate and report findings to me.

5. Do you support expansion of Family Care statewide? Why or why not? If you support other initiatives to increase options for people with disabilities to live in the community, which ones and why do you support them?

The best place for care is at home, if possible, provided by loving friends and relatives, if possible. This is also the least costly care. Society, including our government, must fully assist and compensate such caregivers, defray their expenses, and establish and maintain a support structure for Family Care.

6. A constituent in your district who is attending high school plans to attend college in the near future. Her high school offers college prep courses and other extra-curricular activities after school. Counselors often recommend that students participate in these activities to make their college applications stronger and to inform them about options and resources they have when it comes to making a decision to attend college.

Your constituent has a physical disability and uses a wheelchair. She is not able to drive or take public transportation. Her high school does not offer accessible transportation for these after-school programs.

This constituent would like her college application to be competitive with students who can participate in these programs. How would you respond if she called to request your assistance?

I believe the school district may be in violation of the law. It would be wise to verify whether the law applies in this case. If so, I would advise the constituent and her parent(s) to seek legal advice, and I would request to be kept informed. If there is a legal technicality, or a loophole, or official recalcitrance that prevents a timely resolution, I would investigate alternate solutions and remedies in legislation.

7. The 2000 census showed that approximately one in every 6¹/₂ Wisconsin residents has a disability. As a legislator, what specific steps will you take in order to reach out to the disability community and ensure you are proactively meeting the needs of this constituency?

I would encourage contacts with knowledgeable and reputable representatives and organizations serving the disabled community, as well as with disabled residents of the district.