

2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Name: Jamie Pedersen

District Number: 43

Position: Senator

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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a intellectual/developmental disability (IDD), and if so, would you describe its impact on you? If not, what impact do you want to have for people with IDD and their families?

Yes, many! A mother and daughter with an IDD at my church first gave me a glimpse of the worries that aging parents have about what will happen to their kids when they die. A man with cerebral palsy who delivered the mail at my law firm and delighted everyone with his laugh showed me the value and dignity that comes from supported employment. And each of the kids in my husband's special education class has unique needs that fuel my passion for increasing funding for kids with special needs.

2. What are your top three priorities and how would you ensure people with developmental disabilities and their families are included in them?

1. Providing full funding for special education from the state, which will directly benefit kids with IDD and their families.
2. Reforming the tax system, which will help us create a strong and stable revenue base to fund education and human services for everyone, including people with IDD.
3. Working to prevent gun violence and increase public safety, which benefits the whole community.

3. If cuts became necessary due to a recession or economic downturn, how would you protect services that people with IDD and their families need?

Protecting the people who are most vulnerable has been the theme of our work in the legislature through multiple downturns in revenue. We should never rule out cuts of programs that are not working, but rather than cutting services for people with IDD I would increase taxes and/or find other revenue.

4. Is there other information you'd like constituents with developmental disabilities and their family and friends to know?

I have been working for the last four years on reforms to the state's guardianship laws and funding to make sure that they are implemented well. I am hopeful that these changes will provide important protections to people with IDD.

Your Campaign Website

<https://peopleforpedersen.org/>