

## Candidates for the US Congress

### Medicaid

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) ensures that children with disabilities can get insurance and can not be dropped; the essential benefits package includes services and supports that enhance people's ability to function in the community; and strengthens processes to reduce, waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicaid system. Do you support the ACA?
- How would you ensure that persons with disabilities now eligible for Medicaid will continue to receive the same level of services as are currently available?
- Do you support block grant funding for Medicaid? If so, how would this help or hurt people with I/DD in Colorado?
- Would you support expanding home and community based services by making such services mandatory?

### Revenue and Tax Policy

- Do you believe that the federal budget can be balanced on spending cuts alone? Or do you favor a more balanced approach that includes new revenue?

### Education

- Do you support the Keeping All Students Safe Act (S2020/HR1381)?
- Do you support the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and funding it at higher levels to ensure that more students with disabilities graduate from high school?

### Pending Federal Legislation

- Do you support the Combating Autism Re-authorization Act of 2011 (HR2005)?
- Are you willing to support full funding of the Assistive Technology Act?
- Do you support the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act?

## How can I use these questions?

- ⇒ E-mail a question to the candidate's campaign.
- ⇒ Ask a question at a candidate's town hall meeting or other appearance.
- ⇒ Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper encouraging them to include disability issues in their coverage of the candidate's policy positions.
- ⇒ Share the candidates' answers widely.

### Learn more about these issues

Visit [www.thearcofco.org](http://www.thearcofco.org) and click on the **"We've Got the Power"** icon to access information on how to register, important deadlines and eligibility. Also, explore issues such as the protection of Medicaid, civil rights, education, employment, Social Security and more and learn how to educate the candidates about what's important to you.

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*The Arc of Colorado promotes and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and receive no federal or state funds to provide advocacy support.*

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The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties  
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The Arc of The Pikes Peak Region • Advocacy Denver  
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## Disability Issues Election 2012

*Asking the Right Questions  
Can Make All the Difference!*

**WE'VE GOT THE  
power  
VOTE IN  
2012**

Election Day is November 6, 2012  
**Remember to vote:**  
your voice counts!

**ADVOCACY DENVER**

# Questions for Colorado Legislative Candidates

The 2012 election is a great opportunity to educate candidates about concerns facing people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). One way to raise awareness is to ask questions of candidates at every opportunity during election season. Here are some questions to consider:

## Preserve and Strengthen Medicaid

- Medicaid provides health care coverage for eligible low income Coloradoans including children and adults with disabilities. CO is taking the lead on expanding Medicaid to ensure that more people can have access to health care coverage. Do you support Medicaid expansion? If not, what ideas do you have to improve health care coverage?
- Do you support the provider fees that fund state Medicaid programs that allow working adults with disabilities, and their families to buy-in to Medicaid?
- The Community First Choice Act, part of the Affordable Care Act, would reward states with a 6% increase in federal matching funds if long term supports and services were added to the state Medicaid plan. Would you support exploring this option for Colorado?

## Employment

- Employment allows people with I/DD choice, independence, and an opportunity to contribute as tax payers. People with I/DD have higher than average rates of unemployment; how would you support people with I/DD to get living wage employment?

## Waitlist

- Individuals with I/DD and their families struggle because of long waiting lists. What ideas do you have to improve funding so that all children and adults who are eligible for services get the support they need when they need it?

## Education

- Funding cuts to education have significantly impacted students with I/DD to learn up to their potential. What would you do to improve funding to K-12 education?
- What ideas do you have to reform discipline policies to acknowledge behavioral issues to related to I/DD?

## Access to Health Care

- What ideas do you have to ensure that people with I/DD have access to health and dental services?

## Juvenile Justice

Juveniles with disabilities often have difficulty navigating the criminal justice system, which results in unjust or unequal treatment. Consequences include unfair sentencing (often with unsuitable prison time), failure to receive appropriate accommodations, and victimization of at-risk populations.

- What are your thoughts and ideas to prevent unfair treatment of juveniles with disabilities - particularly to avoid incarceration? How would you implement a comprehensive use of restorative justice that applies to all citizens?

## Community Living

While most Coloradoans desire to receive supports at home, there remains a strong “institutional bias” within Medicaid where the majority of funding goes to services in nursing homes, large group homes, and institutions. Inadequate funding for home and community-based services denies Coloradoans choice, independence, productivity, and their rights against discrimination under the U.S. Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision.

- With access to technology, people with I/DD can be more functional in the community. How would you support greater access to affordable technology including smart phones and tablets?
- Funding for family support programs strengthens the capacity of families to maintain typical lifestyles for themselves and their family members. What ideas do you have to increase funding for family support?
- What ideas do you have to encourage the development of affordable, accessible, and decent housing for people with disabilities?
- How will you support and expand accessible, functional and affordable transportation options for people with disabilities?
- How would you expand the opportunities for consumers and families to direct the services and supports that they use?

