

Thank you so much for the service you provide to the disabled residents of Alaska. I have included my initial thoughts on your questions below, and welcome the opportunity to hear more from your organization on how I can assist the DLC in its mission.

1. I would listen to the recommendations of disability support services groups, United Way, and others as to legislation that is needed to help remove barriers to eligibility for necessary services. I am not an expert in this area and desire to learn how I can assist.

2. On a personal note, I will respect the decisions of persons with disabilities and not impose help unless it is an emergency. I will ask open-ended questions about whether a disabled person needs help and how I can help. As a legislator, I will support legislation and funding for supportive living services, in-home support services, and other specialized services.

3. I will advocate for budget commitments and legislation that provide a strategic wage compensation package to court-appointed Guardians that is competitive in the workforce and reflects the State's commitment to high-quality persons filling these positions, who in turn will provide high-quality care and services to our people.

4. I will support in-state program funding for VOA, Northstar, AK Child and Family, and other youth care facilities to bolster our local treatment capacity. I will also support the state's pursuit of more public-private partnerships in this area to grow its capacity.

5. First, I will strongly support state funding of our schools, especially those that provide disability support services. I will listen to the recommendations of Special Education advocacy groups, DLC, and others.