The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided protections for 2.8 million Arizonans living with a pre-existing condition and has provisions that extend care to former foster youth, school-aged children, and hundreds of thousands for Arizonans. However, the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act is under review by the Supreme Court. Do you support efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act?

No

Comments on the Affordable Care Act

The ACA is a very good way to provider health insurance for many Americans. We can improve on the act until we can find a better way to insure all Americans.

Medicaid is a major source of federal funds in Arizona, with every dollar of state investment drawing down $3.20 in federal funds. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) projects a major state budget shortfall in the next state fiscal year (FY2021). Would you support cuts to Medicaid provider rates, member eligibility, or covered benefits in order to make up for state budget shortfalls?

No

Comments on Medicaid

Medicaid is a lifeline for many and reimbursement rates are important to providers. We must not have cuts in these areas. Healthcare is a human right and we must preserve this important healthcare program in Arizona.
6
The Invest in Education Act is a ballot proposition that restores hundreds of millions of dollars annually in K-12 education funding to solve the teacher-shortage crisis, lower class sizes, hire aides and counselors, and expand career and technical education. It raises the state income tax rate for income above $250,000 for individuals and for income above $500,000 for households. Do you support the Invest in Education ballot proposition to raise new resources dedicated to public schools?

Yes

7
Comments on Invest in Education

We must have additional sources of funding for education in Arizona.

8
The Arizona Education Progress Meter recognizes that children with access to quality, early learning opportunities are more prepared for kindergarten. As they go forward in school and in life, they are less likely to need special education or be held back a grade. They are more likely to graduate high school and go on to college. But many children start kindergarten already behind their peers. Only 21 percent of Arizona preschool-aged children today benefit from quality, early learning in child care and preschool compared to the progress meter goal of 45 percent by 2030. Will you support using state and federal child care funds to connect more young children with quality, early learning in preschool and child care to move Arizona toward the progress meter goal?

Yes

9
Comments on early learning

Arizona must put more emphasis on early learning for all students. This is an important factor for these children as they grow and achieve later in life.
In 2018, 13 percent of children in Arizona (204,363) were being raised by their grandparents or other relatives. In many instances, these relatives have stepped up to care for children who were being abused and neglected, keeping them safe and out of the foster care system. Nationally, informal kinship caregivers keep millions of children out of the overburdened child welfare system and save taxpayers more than $4 billion each year. Even prior to the COVID-19 crisis, these families faced barriers to securing adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. Before the Great Recession, kinship caregivers were able to access “child-only” benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), also known as cash assistance. These benefits helped these families meet the critical basic needs of the relative children in their care. Do you support restoring access to “child-only” TANF benefits for children who are being raised by kin?

Yes

The events over the last few weeks have brought widespread focus on the systemic racism that is deeply embedded in our society. If elected, would you hold your colleagues and other elected officials accountable to specific criminal justice and police reforms for systemic change.

Yes
We need to address systemic racism and now is the time for all of us to be vocal and step up to the plate. There is quite a lot we can do in the legislature. We can address police reform and criminal justice reform. We cannot remain silent. I will stand with my colleagues of all races on both sides of the aisle if they stand up to proclaim that black lives matter. No minority should fear for their life when around the police or worry that a minor infringement of the law could cost them their life. We must stop mass incarceration and the school to prison pipeline. We must invest in our children's education and future. We must not think of behavioral problems in schools as children as criminals but look to other factors such as dysfunctional families, substance abuse and mental health. Now is the time for systemic change and I am excited to be part of this change within the AZ legislature.

Girardforarizona@gmail.com