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Please confirm your name

Jennifer Longdon

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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

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Comments on the Affordable Care Act

During the passage of the Affordable Care Act, I organized more than 10,000 volunteer hours with Obama for America and then Organizing for America. I hosted phone banks, ran canvasses and vote pledge drives and ballot chases. Passage of the ACA has improved the lives of countless Arizonans. I am solidly invested in the ACA. We must work to expand its protections.

4

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

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Comments on Medicaid

Balancing a budget by stripping away our social services and healthcare is bad policy and does not protect our constituents. There are more effective solutions to create revenue than attacking our working families.

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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

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Comments on Invest in Education

My son is a product of Arizona Public Schools from kindergarten to college. I recognize the value of public education for the advancement of our working families and as an investment in a vibrant, capable workforce. Arizona has devalued education spending and it is time we restore funding.

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

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Comments on early learning

I support expanding early learning opportunities. Universal Pre-K programs provide so much more to our community than just academic preparedness. It provides opportunity for children to develop social-emotional skills, a safe supportive environment, and childcare for families that rely on multiple sources of income to support themselves. It exposes children to child development professionals at an earlier age who can spot opportunities for developmental interventions that can keep a child from falling behind their peers. Spotting this in first grade - or later – is far too late for many children to catch up.

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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

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Comments on kinship families

Kinship care is vital to healing families. When kinship caregivers step up, we must provide the appropriate supports to allow these families to flourish.

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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

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A free space for your comments

Since I was paralyzed by violent crime more than 15 years ago, I have worked on community policing reform.

I believe (and have publicly said) that we criminalize health issues. Too many people who live with disabilities end up victimized by our justice system. In many cases law enforcement officers are the wrong "tool" in our public safety/community wellbeing toolbox. Roughly 75% of students caught in the school-to-prison pipeline have disabilities according to the National Council on Independent Living. Arizona's Department of Corrections is the largest provider of mental health care in the state. Nearly half of all people killed by police are people with disabilities. In many cases, the originating cause of police contact pertained directly to that disability.

Nationally there is data to support the statement that EVERY person on death row has a cognitive disability or brain injury. When we add racial biases on top of this, we see that people of color endure hardship and mistreatment at far greater rates.

If one is white, your "unruly" child may be tested, diagnosed and treated for autism, ADHD or learning disabilities and offered interventions. If that same child is black or brown, they are more likely labeled "disruptive" or "oppositional" and disciplined more harshly – leading ultimately to police contact.

For me the issues of social justice and equity are inextricably linked with disability rights.

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To receive a record of your responses please provide your email

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