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Please confirm your name

Juan Mendez

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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

3

Comments on the Affordable Care Act

As a progressive, I believe our social responsibility to each other never threatens our individuality, in fact a strong community allows us all more security to be ourselves. The ACA isn't perfect but it helps guarantee a freedom that some can take for granted. Growing up, my family struggled to maintain the basic healthcare coverage we needed to live healthy and happy lives. For a kid, the anxiety of not being covered is enough to cause its own trauma. I felt it then, and if it wasn't for the stability provided to us by Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP or "KidsCare") then we would not have never been able to climb out of poverty. The ACA guarantees more families have the freedom to breathe a little easier and not be forced to make impossible choices of going without food or healthcare.

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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 response

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Comments on Medicaid

Healthcare is a human right, our policies and budget should reflect that fact. We need to improve and expand on the already successful AHCCCS program so that everyone in Arizona has guaranteed access to healthcare with comprehensive benefits. Any concerns over cost will never outweigh what we all are already paying for when so many of our neighbors go without care.

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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?

No response

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Comments on Invest in Education

Because of Prop 108 even if the Democrats take the majority in the AZ House and Senate we still won't be able to provide the dedicated and sustainable funding our education system needs without the Invest in Education proposition. Our tax code is entirely unbalanced, people with less income pay more as a part of their income in state and local taxes than our wealthiest income recipients. We need the Invest in Education proposition in order to undo years of neglect from Republican leadership.

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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

Waiting until Kindergarten to invest in our children's education is too late. The fact that good early childcare and learning centers can cost as much as a university education unfairly prepares our youth for education and enjoyment in life. We need to connect more youth to quality early learning in order to help undo years of injustice.

10

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

Keeping children with their families is best for the child. We should be doing everything we can to make kinship family situations more successful. Restoring "child-only" TANF benefits support the arrangement and would help avoid further disruption to the child.

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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

I run a bill every year that would allow for an independent body to put together a Racial Impact Statement for every bill. Similar to how we're able to ask for an independent analysis of the cost of legislation. The public should have some analysis as to how racist a policy will be as it builds our public infrastructure and helps influence society.

Public safety has no excuse to look like a war zone. I support mandatory body cams for all police, demilitarizing the police, eliminating Qualified Immunity, requiring mediation and de-escalation training, strengthening the Police Misconduct Registry (Brady List), and citizen review boards.

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To receive a record of your responses please provide your email

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