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Please confirm your name

Judy Schwiebert

2

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

While the Affordable Care Act could use improvement, it has provided important provisions on which families rely. Repealing those provisions would hurt hundreds of thousands of Arizonans and be very costly for all of us. Revisions to the Affordable Care Act should include these as well as other provisions that ensure the health care Americans need.

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

5

#### Comments on Medicaid

We must prioritize affordable, quality healthcare, as well as education, in order to rebuild an economy in which everyone can thrive. Investment in Medicaid is an important part of that. We all do better when everyone can contribute to our economy as part of a strong, educated workforce. In addition to being the right thing to do, it's also cost-effective to ensure that people have the healthcare they need to live life fully.

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

Students in 1800+ classrooms this past year had no permanent, qualified teacher because the legislature has repeatedly failed to adequately fund our schools. In fact, we remain near the bottom of the nation in per pupil investment. The top issue I hear from people in my community is that we need to fund our schools so we can pay our teachers better and have smaller class sizes. So, I believe that voters should get to decide on the proposed Invest in Ed solution to ensuring that every student has a permanent, qualified teacher in their classroom.

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

Experts emphasize that the importance of early childhood education cannot be overstated. Those early years are the foundation for his or her future development and provide a strong base for lifelong learning. It's a wise investment to make sure that all children have that foundation. It will pay off by creating a stronger economy in which everyone plays a part, as well as lower criminal justice and public safety costs.

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

11

Comments on kinship families

These generous family members who step in to care for grandchildren or other relatives should not be prevented from accessing the TANF assistance provided for other foster families. Raising a child is expensive. In addition to being vital to the well-being of a child in their family, they're also already saving taxpayers billions of dollars by taking on this responsibility.

12

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

13

A free space for your comments

The killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many others at the hands of law enforcement are powerful wake-up calls (again) to the systemic racism that still persists. It is beyond time to listen and ACT to create a more just society. I will hold myself and my colleagues accountable for supporting criminal justice and law enforcement reforms that include psychological screenings, de-escalation training, body cams, civilian review boards, and ending chokeholds.

14

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