

Jun 15, 2020 8:01 PM

1

Please confirm your name

Kirsten Engel

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

We need to do more to expand coverage and ensure insurance plans provide the care needed at affordable prices. We should not be repealing the ACA, we should be strengthening it and exploring additional policies to lower costs and expand coverage.

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

No, Medicaid (AHCCCS) is an important component of keeping as many Arizonans covered as possible. When lower-income people lack access to healthcare and especially preventative care, the aggregated healthcare costs to Arizonans is much higher.

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 have been systematically underfunding education through deferred maintenance, stagnant educator wages, and underfunded classrooms. If the Legislature isn't going to uphold our Constitutional commitment to strong public education, we must use our Constitutional right to direct democracy to do it.

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

Early investments in education pay themselves back easily over the life of the children who are enriched by it, and that improvement in lifelong educational attainment benefits our communities. We can and should invest in tomorrow by investing in early childhood today.

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

Families should not be driven into poverty or forced to make tough calls about their household budget when becoming a kinship caregiver. I strongly support restoring access to "child-only" TANF benefits and considering other proposals to support kinship families.

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

Since first being elected in 2016, I have been one of few attorneys in the Legislature. As a result, I've been proud to be a leader on the Judiciary Committee where I've worked to bring bipartisan coalitions together to examine the numerous bad policies that have led Arizona to having the 4th or 5th highest incarceration rate in the country. Not only is this a wasteful use of state revenue (over \$1B per year), our criminal justice policy structure incentivizes incarceration that disproportionately targets communities of color. This is a component of systemic racism that must be addressed, but we have to remember that policing and criminal justice are not the only things we need to address. Education disparities, curriculum that does not teach comprehensive American history, healthcare, economic opportunity, and so much more are all affected by systemic racism.

14

To receive a record of your responses please provide your email

engelforarizona@gmail.com