

Jun 15, 2020 8:04 PM

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Please confirm your name

Stephanie Stahl Hamilton

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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

If anything, the Affordable Care Act needs to be expanded in Arizona. Quality health care is neither affordable nor accessible to many people in our state.

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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

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Comments on Medicaid

Balancing the budget on the backs of our most vulnerable populations during an economic downturn is not something I support. If anything, it would seem more costly in the long run to remove coverage of preventative care in exchange for coverage of more costly treatment later. Healthy communities are a greater contribution to our economy than budget cuts.

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

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Comments on Invest in Education

We cannot talk about funding education in Arizona without having a conversation about taxes. Our tax structure is one of the most regressive in the United States. The Invest in Ed initiative is a progressive tax and is one that creates a sustainable revenue for funding our public schools. With the Federal tax cuts that were enacted in 2017, this tax increase will still fall below what the top one percent was paying before they were given a tax break.

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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

This is one of the best investments we can make for the future of our children and our state. I would wholeheartedly support this.

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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

We know that children do better when they are with their family. Kinship care should not be seen as a way to save the state money, but as an avenue to provide care that is best for the children in our state. As with anything in regards to our children, an environment with supports like the same level of funding as foster parents is one of the best investments we can make for our children and their families. Kinship care should be seen as the best alternative for constant and consistent care for our children with the appropriate supports put in place. It should never be used as a way for the state to cut costs in the care for our children.

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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

Criminal justice and police reforms in regard to disproportionate arrests and incarceration rates of minorities should be a first step in dealing with systemic racism. I would most certainly hold my colleagues accountable as well as work to implement those reforms.

14

To receive a record of your responses please provide your email

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