



2017 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: _____

Party: Republican ___ Democrat ___ Office District/County/Town: _____
Senate ___ Assembly ___ County ___ Municipal ___

Contact Address: _____ Town _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Return to: Ann Twomey, President at atwomey@hpae.org or Jean Pierce at jpierce@hpae.org or mail to Health Professionals & Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO, 110 Kinderkamack Rd. Emerson, NJ 07630

1. **Ensure Safe Staffing for Patient Safety:** As nurses and healthcare professionals, on the frontlines of caregiving we continue to advocate for legislation that ensures patient safety with safe staffing. Patients deserve the right number of qualified nurses at their bedsides, and that includes having the continuity of care that comes with proper scheduling of regular staff. Healthcare workers all feel the difficulty of treating patients when the unit is understaffed – and will feel the improvement when there are more RNs on the floor as well.

If elected, will you support legislation that ensures patient safety and establishing minimum nurse-to-patient ratios as a measure to protect patients and retain nurses?

- YES, I support
- No, I oppose

Comments: _____

2. **Failures of the NJ Regulatory System:** Governor Christie has blocked every attempt to pass laws which set strong standards for safe staffing, workers' safety, and financial transparency in the healthcare industry. At the same time, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) – has been lax in enforcing compliance with existing laws and has failed to adapt to the changes in the hospital industry. In addition, under the Christie Administration NJDOH discontinued biennial inspections of hospitals to enforce laws and regulations such as nurse staffing guidelines. The result has been many hospitals' failure to comply with important laws protecting the safety of New Jersey's patients and the quality of the healthcare they receive.



If elected, will you support legislation order NJDOH to resume regular inspections of New Jersey healthcare facilities and to complete that will set safe staffing standards and financial transparency?

- Yes, I support
- No, I oppose

Comments: _____

3. **Protecting Public Employee Pensions and Benefits:** Gov. Christie signed a bill into law that will require the state to make quarterly payments to the NJ public worker pension system instead of at the end of the fiscal year in June. The legislation only works if the full required payments are made.

Will you take steps to ensure the full quarterly payments are made on time?

- Yes, I will ensure payments are made
- No, I cannot support quarterly payments

Comments: _____

4. **Ending Surprise Medical Bills:** The changing landscape of health insurance coverage includes plans with high deductibles, high co-pays, and smaller provider networks that can lead to unexpected or higher costs. Patients should be given advance notice if they are seeking treatment from a provider which is out-of-network. Patients must be protected from balance billing when they inadvertently use an out-of-network provider.

If elected, will you support the “Out-of-network Consumer Protection, Transparency, Cost Containment and Accountability Act?”

- Yes, I support
- No, I oppose

Comments: _____



5. **Pay Equity for Women:** Governor Christie conditionally vetoed S992/A2750 that prohibits disparity in pay for women. The legislation bans employers from paying women less "for substantially the same work", strengthens the penalties for wage discrimination and makes it easier for women to recover the back pay that they are owed.

If elected, would you support Pay Equity legislation?

- Yes, I support
- No, I oppose

Comments: _____

6. **Paid Sick Days for Working Families:** More than two in five private sector workers do not receive a paid sick day to recover from common short-term illnesses. The Center for Disease Control calls for workers to stay home when diagnosed with contagious illnesses such as the flu. This legislation can help to prevent the spread of illnesses by providing workers with paid time off to recover and contain the illness.

If elected, will you support legislation to require employers to provide for paid sick days to improve the quality of life for all New Jerseyans?

- Yes, I support
- No, I oppose

Comments: _____

7. **Fair, Living Wages for Workers:** Most workers who make less than \$15 an hour in New Jersey are adults and working full-time. Raising the wage to \$15 would affect the lives of 1 in 4 workers in NJ (975,000).

If elected will you support a ballot question for a constitutional amendment to increase NJ's minimum wage to \$15 hour?

- Yes, I support
- No, I oppose

Comments: _____

8. **Protecting health care coverage and access to quality healthcare:** The Trump administration has made repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) one of its top priorities with no viable replacement plan in sight. The ACA has provided coverage to roughly 900,000 NJ residents,



250,000 who are covered through the subsidized federal marketplace, and another 650,000 who became eligible for Medicaid when it was expanded under the act. The new administration has said it would pay Medicaid monies to the states in the form of block grants.

If elected, will you work to ensure patients will continue to have healthcare coverage and quality care, protect the financial security of NJ hospitals and ensure patients will have continuing healthcare services in their community?

- Yes, I support the ACA and its expansion
- No, I oppose the ACA

Comments: _____
