



2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: _____

Party Affiliation: Republican____ Democrat____ Other(specify)_____

Office you are seeking: Assembly____ County _____ Municipal_____

Contact Address: _____

Email: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Return by mail to Health Professionals & Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO, 110 Kinderkamack Rd. Emerson, NJ 07630 or email to jpierce@hpae.org. Or complete this questionnaire online at

Questions contact: Jean Pierce 732-841-2049 or jpierce@hpae.org

Ensure Safe Staffing Levels for Patient Safety: Nurses are advocating for legislation to set safe staffing levels to ensure nurses are not caring for too many patients. The direct link between safe patient care and safe nurse staffing limits is clear from decades of studies. When nurses are caring for too many patients, we see higher infection rates, higher rates of re-admission and even higher mortality rates. Short staffing also contributes to nurses leaving the profession for another career or early retirement something we cannot afford as our nation faces a nursing shortage. New Jersey has a proposed law establishing a base-line safe level of the number of patients one nurse can care for — with adjustments based on the unit, a patient’s illness (called acuity) and his or her need for nursing care. The sicker the patient, the higher the acuity.

Please state your position on supporting efforts to implement Safe Staffing Standards in healthcare facilities. If elected, will you support efforts that ensures patient safety by establishing minimum nurse-to-patient levels? Yes, I support _____ No, I do not support _____

Comments:



Failures of the NJ Regulatory System: Under the Christie Administration the NJ Department of Health (DOH) discontinued biennial inspections. Inspections were routinely conducted by a multidisciplinary team of nurses, pharmacists, life safety inspectors and other professionals. NJ must inspect hospitals to enforce laws and regulations that ensure the safety of patients.

Please state your position for requiring the NJ DOH to perform regular inspections of New Jersey healthcare facilities. Will you support efforts to ensure routine inspections and increase licensing fees to secure revenue to be dedicated to hiring additional staff within NJ DOH to ensure the Department has the capacity to conduct routine and biennial inspections?

Yes, I support _____ No, I do not support _____

Comments: _____

Protecting Public Employee Pensions and Benefits: Recently a package of bills known as the “Path To Progress” were introduced as a way to solve NJ’s financial crisis, yet some of these bills will erode collective bargaining rights and threatens the retirement security for tens of thousands of union members in New Jersey. Any savings that result in changes to public workers benefits should be negotiated at the bargaining table not in the Statehouse. The “Path to Progress” legislation calls for ending the current public worker pension system for state, county and municipal government employees and shifting billions of dollars of healthcare costs on to worker.

What is your position on protecting workers’ rights to collectively bargain their benefits. If elected will you oppose efforts to take away the bargaining rights of unionized public workers that will further erode the health and retirement security that workers have earned.

Yes, I will support _____ No, I will oppose _____

Comments: _____

Affordable Healthcare for All: Nurses and health professionals are advocates for quality, affordable health care for every patient. Millions of Americans have gained health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA not only insured millions it also provided important consumer protections that are now the law of the land, such as a prohibition on insurance companies denying coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions. Now, the Trump administration is determined to repeal the ACA and to make healthcare less affordable and accessible. While NJ works to implement its



own healthcare marketplace, lawmakers must also codify those consumer protections to protect patients in NJ against the Trump Administration's sabotage of the ACA.

Please state your position on protecting the rights of NJ consumers. Do you support efforts that will give New Jersey the ability to codify the protections of the ACA for every patient in NJ in the event the Trump Administration eliminates those protections at the federal level?

Yes, I do support _____ No, I do not support _____

Comments: _____

Debt-Free Health Care: Getting healthcare treatment should never mean going broke. More than a quarter of Americans can't afford their medical bills because employers shift health plan costs onto working families through high out-of-pocket costs. High medical costs can put families' financial futures at risk and discourages people from getting the care they need. Working families deserve access to medical care without the threat of being sent into a cycle of debt.

If elected, will you support changes to current health care billing systems that will ensure delays as to when medical debt may be sent to a collection agency and provides for income-based repayments; provides for deferment and discharge of outstanding medical debt under certain circumstances?

Yes, I support _____ No, I do not support _____

Comments: _____

