

2016 FEDERAL QUESTIONNAIRE

ANA SOL GUTIERREZ

 Question Summaries

 Individual Responses

Respondent #8

#8

COMPLETE



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Q1: Please complete the information below.

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Q2: If elected, would you co-sponsor and vote for legislation that would restore the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining by (1) streamlining the process for allowing workers to choose whether to join a union, and protecting workers from intimidation and coercion; (2) strengthening remedies for interference with workers' rights; and (3) establishing first contract mediation and arbitration?

Yes

Comments Absolutely. I am a long-time fighter and supporter of full labor rights.

Q3: If elected, would you publicly affirm the importance of unions to your communities and urge employers not to interfere when workers are deciding whether to form or join a union? Would you be willing to issue statements, attend rallies supporting organizing campaigns, and sponsor public forums to support the rights of workers to form a union?



Yes

Comments Yes. I have and will continue to publicly speak and act in support of unions.

Q4: If elected, would you oppose a national "right to work" bill that would prohibit unionized workers and their employers from voluntarily agreeing to "union security" provisions which allow the union to recover the costs of collective bargaining from all the workers that federal law requires the union to represent in the workplace?

Yes

Comments Yes. I have and will continue to oppose "right to work" legislation.

Q5: If elected, would you oppose efforts to limit the ability of the National Labor Relations Board or the National Mediation Board to enforce the law or to engage in rulemaking to streamline and modernize procedures for forming unions and to notify employees of their rights under the NLRA and RLA?

Yes

Comments I would also work to protect AND strengthen the NLRB and NMB.

Q6: If elected, would you oppose restrictions on the use of union dues for political and legislative activities?

Yes

Comments As a member of the MD House Appropriations Committee, I have opposed all such proposals and will continue to do so.

Q7: If elected, would you support funding for important infrastructure projects that generate good jobs, such as transportation systems, school modernization, energy, airports and water systems?

Yes

Comments Absolutely! I am a strong advocate for infrastructure investments and will continue to fight for funding for such projects.

Q8: If elected, will you support a new multi-year surface transportation authorization with a dedicated source of funding segregated from the federal budget?

Yes

Comments Absolutely. As a former Clinton Administration appointee at the USDOT, I fully understand the importance of stable, dedicated, and long-time funding of surface transportation projects.

Q9: If elected, would you support a multi-year transportation bill that increases funding for federal transit programs and provides for transit operating assistance for systems of all sizes?

Yes

Comments

I am a Life-long supporter of transit programs and will continue to support federal funding for these critical programs.

Q10: If elected, would you support additional fiscal relief to state and local governments to preserve vital public services and jobs, including health, education, transportation and first responders?

Yes

Comments

I fully support maintaining and enhancing the role that federal funding plays to in state and local government investments.

Q11: If elected, would you support progressive revenue measures, including taxing capital gains as ordinary income and imposing a small financial transactions tax so that Wall Street helps clean up the economic mess it helped create?

Yes

Comments

Absolutely. I introduced taxing capital gains legislation in Maryland and will continue to support such progressive tax measures at the federal level.

Q12: If elected, would you oppose legislation that grants traditional fast track Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to the President?

Yes

Comments

I am strongly opposes to fast track TPA legislation.

Q13: If elected would you oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

Yes

Comments

Absolutely. The TPP is a continuation of the extremely flawed trade agreements, such as CAFTA and NAFTA, that have caused enormous damage to the US economy and to developing countries, such as my native El Salvador.

Q14: If elected, would you support legislation and efforts that would promote a new, fair trade agenda for the United States so that our trade policy promotes the export of goods and services rather than jobs?

Yes

Comments

This legislation is urgently need to redirect and refocus US trade policy on principals of fair trade and development.

Q15: If elected, would you support policies that would protect U.S. industries from unfair competition from state-owned and supported enterprises?

Yes

Comments

International trade proposals must seriously address unfair subsidies that impact the fair trade of US goods and services.

Q16: If elected, would you support efforts to strengthen trade law enforcement and to secure meaningful remedies for injuries resulting from unfair trade?

Yes

Comments This is urgent and critical. Countries are being devastated by clauses in free trade agreements that threaten labor protections, the environment, drinking water, and development in many countries.

Q17: If elected, would you oppose legislation to implement bilateral, regional, or unilateral free trade agreements that do not require enforcement of internationally recognized workers' rights and environmental standards?

Yes

Comments I strongly oppose free trade agreements that essentially violate internationally recognized workers rights and environmental standards.

Q18: If elected, would you oppose trade agreements that give greater rights to foreign investors than domestic investors or that encourage employers to move American jobs offshore by making it too easy to bypass national court systems to challenge environmental or workplace laws?

Yes

Comments I strongly opposes these extremely damaging provisions of free trade agreements. El Salvador is currently threatened by bankruptcy due to CAFTA protection of foreign company, Pacific Rim, and its destructive gold mining contracts.

Q19: What will you do to address the trade imbalance with China and promote the rights of Chinese workers, especially the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining?

Yes

Comments I support all measures that strengthen and promote worker's rights in China

Q20: If elected, would you support measures to ensure that the Chinese government and other foreign nations cease illegal currency manipulation?

Yes

Comments I support working with international communities to stop illegal currency manipulation.

Q21: If elected, would you support legislation to end the deferral of overseas income?

Yes

Comments We must close any and all loopholes that encourage exporting US jobs for corporate profit.

Q22: If elected would you oppose granting U.S. corporations a tax holiday on repatriated overseas income?

Yes

Comments I will oppose legislation granting tax holidays to corporations.

Q23: If elected, would you oppose tax reform proposals that would move the U.S. toward a territorial tax system?

Yes

Comments I oppose tax proposal that provide benefits to corporations that export jobs-period!

Q24: 4. HEALTH CAREThe labor movement believes health care is a basic human right. America's labor movement has worked for more than a century for guaranteed high-quality health care for everyone. The enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marked a notable step toward this goal through the expansion of comprehensive health insurance to 25 million more Americans, by providing insurance market reforms, and by making coverage more affordable for many working families through premium subsidies and expanded Medicaid eligibility. However, the governors of many states have refused to implement the coverage expansions, and important work must be done to ensure that the ACA's Medicaid expansion is pursued in all 50 states. In addition, federal agencies administering the ACA have interpreted the law in ways that are threatening the ability of workers to keep the health care coverage they currently receive. These agencies have inappropriately imposed fees and greater costs on many collectively bargained plans, unnecessarily driving coverage costs higher. In particular, many Taft-Hartley multiemployer plans – nonprofit health care funds established to cover workers who work for different employers throughout the year – face additional fees that Congress did not intend for them to bear. The labor movement is working with the Obama administration and Congress to fix these implementation problems and to strengthen the law. We seek a level playing field for multiemployer health plans by making sure that they can access federal subsidies for health insurance, breaking the private insurance company monopoly on receipt of this support. We seek strengthened employer responsibility rules that remove the current incentive for employers to reduce their workers' hours. By requiring employers to make coverage contributions for all their employees, even those that work part-time, fewer employers can shirk this responsibility. Employers who do not support coverage must also face a more substantial penalty. In the construction industry, where the bulk of firms have less than 50 employees, the rules should apply to smaller employers. We are also advancing policies to control the growth of health costs which continue to consume a greater and greater portion of workers' paychecks. Better efficiency and lower prices can be obtained from health care providers, pharmaceutical makers, and other medical suppliers by improving the leverage of health care purchasers and enacting payment reforms. Creating a public option in the health insurance exchanges would inject competition into local insurance markets, lowering costs and improving coverage. These mark additional steps toward our ultimate goal of achieving a single, high-quality standard of health care for the nation through a social insurance model such as "Medicare for all." Finally, as strong supporters of health care reform, the AFL-CIO believes all women should have universal access to quality health care at a reasonable cost. The ACA provides that women will receive preventative health care benefits, including FDA-approved methods of birth control, without co-pays or deductibles. We oppose efforts to eliminate or restrict a woman's ability to access these benefits, thus limiting their ability to maintain their health and that of their families.

If elected, would you work to improve the ACA to ensure that collectively-bargained health plans can continue providing comprehensive, affordable coverage for workers? Yes

If elected, would you work to repeal the misnamed "Cadillac tax" (the ACA excise tax on health benefits) and, in general, oppose any proposal to tax employment-based health care benefits?

Yes

If elected, would you support legislation that would establish minimum nurse staffing ratios and prohibit mandatory overtime in our nation's hospitals to ensure safe patient care?

Yes

If elected, would you work to ensure guaranteed health care for all as a right and not a privilege?

Yes

If elected, would you work to support legislation to create a public option that will be available on the health insurance exchanges?

Yes

If elected, would you oppose efforts to restrict access to FDA-approved birth control methods for working women?

Yes

If elected, would you support broader employer shared responsibility requirements which cover part-time employees?

Yes

If elected, would you work to restore access to affordable health coverage for immigrants authorized to live and work in the United States?

Yes

Comments

I am a long-time supporter of universal health care and fought hard for inclusion of a public option as part of the ACA. I will continue to advocate for greater access to affordable health care by all, including immigrants.

Q25: 5. MEDICAID AND MEDICAREThe Medicaid and Medicare programs are cornerstones of our health care system, providing health coverage for vulnerable Americans and supporting the nation's health care infrastructure. Medicaid currently covers over 70.5 million low-income adults and children. As the nation's major source of funding for nursing home and long-term community services, two-thirds of Medicaid spending supports care for seniors and people with disabilities. Since October 2013, when the initial healthcare marketplace open enrollment period began, Medicaid enrollment rose by almost 27 percent among states that implemented Medicaid expansion. Medicare covers 50 million seniors and people with permanent disabilities, groups that historically have had great difficulty obtaining coverage. Unfortunately, in recent years, some members of Congress have sought to achieve budget savings from Medicare by shifting costs to beneficiaries in the name of "reform." In most of these cost-shifting proposals, beneficiaries would pay higher copayments for services or medicines under the logic that they would consume less. This approach to reform fails to recognize that most health care utilization is provider driven and that payment reform holds better promise in holding down costs. While Medicare is administered with relative efficiency, it is part of the overall health care system which is marked by poor cost effectiveness and inconsistent quality. To improve

Medicare, careful reforms should be made to the delivery system, and beneficiaries – who have an average income of only \$22,000 per year – should not be expected to bear the brunt of savings sought from the program.

If elected, would you oppose significant funding cuts for the Medicaid program, through block-granting, "per capita caps," changes to the funding formula, or other approaches?

YES

If elected, would you oppose Medicare benefit cuts that shift costs to seniors, including premium increases, copayment increases, benefit reductions, or conversion to a voucher system?

YES

If elected, would you support efforts to control the rising price of pharmaceutical drugs in Medicaid and Medicare?

YES

Comments

I strongly oppose any legislative proposals that would weaken and reduce funding for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Q26: 6. LABOR STANDARDS The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is the nation's basic labor standards law. It protects all workers who might otherwise be subjected to unfair wages, pay discrimination or extended work hours without overtime pay. The FLSA limits child labor and industrial homework and protects the disabled. FLSA protections are regularly under attack and are often eroded by lack of enforcement. The Davis-Bacon Act requires the payment of prevailing community wages on federally financed construction projects. This law ensures local contractors that uphold prevailing rates of pay and local labor standards in a geographic area a fair chance to compete for government projects without being undercut by outside firms using cut-rate labor. The act also protects the government from unreliable operators seeking to win federal contracts by bidding too low to attract competent craftsmen. The Service Contract Act (SCA) is based on the principle that the federal government should not award contracts for services to employers that underbid by paying workers less than the actual rates of pay for the same work in a geographic area. SCA protects the living standards of those who are employed as a direct result of federal service contracts, particularly those in low-wage occupations. Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) are collective bargaining agreements between building trade unions and contractors that govern the terms and conditions of employment for all craft workers – union and non-union – on a construction project. PLA's have been successfully used for nearly a century, ensuring the flow of skilled workers and helping projects come in on time and on budget. But PLA's have come under attack by some members of Congress. Behind these attacks are low-road, anti-worker businesses who oppose basic workers' rights and don't want to pay fair wages for skilled labor. Section 13 (c) of the Federal Transit Act protects the collective bargaining rights of hundreds of thousands of urban, suburban and rural transit employees when federal funds are used to acquire, improve or operate a transit system. Section 13(c) fosters labor-management stability and assures a highly trained, experienced and safe workforce, allowing for the development of significant technological, structure and productivity improvements. The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 is 22% below its late 1960s peak after adjusting for inflation. Today, a full time minimum wage worker earns \$15,080 a year, which is \$8,000 below the poverty level for a family of four. Just under half of affected workers work full time, and 84% are adults older than 20. The majority of beneficiaries are women (58%) and the average affected worker brings home half of the family earnings. The situation for tipped workers, whose minimum wage has been stuck at \$2.13 an hour since 1991, is even worse. Almost three-quarters of tipped workers are women, and 16% live in poverty. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that as many as 30% of employers misclassify their employees as independent contractors, cheating these workers out of important workplace protections and benefits, including the right to organize and full coverage

under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Federal and state governments lose an estimated \$3-4 billion a year, and honest employers are subject to higher workers' compensation and health insurance costs than their low-road competitors.

If elected, would you oppose any legislation that would either weaken or repeal the Davis-Bacon Act?	YES
If elected, would you oppose any legislation that would weaken or repeal the Service Contract Act?	YES
If elected, would you oppose efforts to prohibit or weaken Project Labor Agreements?	YES
If elected will you fight to ensure that Section 13(c) transit labor protections continue to apply to all existing and new federal transit programs, including all "innovative finance" initiatives.	YES
If elected, would you support an effort to gradually increase the minimum wage to \$12.00 by 2020, phase out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, and index future increases to maintain a constant minimum wage-to-median wage ratio?	YES
If elected, would you support legislation to hold employers accountable for deliberate misclassification of employees in order to avoid taxes, including Social Security and Medicare, and workers' compensation and unemployment?	YES

Comments

As a State Delegate, I have been a long-time fighter for fair wages and increased protections for workers from abusive practices by employers, such as wage-theft, misclassification, and weakened protections for workers.

Q27: 7. Work and Family Policies The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993, requiring employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid (but job-protected) family or medical leave, was a major step in helping workers balance the demands of work and family. But the effectiveness of the FMLA is constrained by its limited coverage and the inability of millions of workers to afford leave without pay. Almost 41 million workers are not covered by the FMLA and according to a 2000 Labor Department study, 78 percent of workers who needed leave but did not take it said they could not afford it. To address these shortcomings, Congress needs to expand FMLA eligibility and provide for paid leave for workers caring for newborns or sick family members. Congress must also resist calls by employers to curtail FMLA rights by limiting the circumstances under which employees can take leave. And in addition to family and medical leave already provided under the FMLA, Congress should guarantee at least seven paid sick days for every worker. The Fair Labor Standards Act requires employers to pay a time-and-a-half cash premium for work performed in excess of 40 hours per week.

Under the guise of helping families balance work and family, some in Congress have proposed giving employers the option of offering compensatory time off, instead of a cash premium, for overtime work. Though supporters claim this legislation would give workers more flexibility and control over their schedules, in reality comp time proposals would undermine the 40-hour week – resulting in more workers working longer hours for less pay – and give flexibility and control to employers rather than workers. Employees increasingly face just-in-time scheduling practices, including being given very little notice of their work schedules, being sent home early when work is slow without being paid for their scheduled shifts, and being assigned to call-in shifts or on-call shifts that require them to call their employer or wait to be called by their employer, often within two hours of their potential shift, to find out whether they will be required to report to work. The AFL-CIO supports legislation known as the Schedules that Work Act that would provide greater rights and protections to workers who face abusive scheduling practices.

If elected, would you support an effort to expand the FMLA to cover workers in companies with fewer than 50 employees? YES

If elected, would you support legislation to require that companies guarantee at least seven paid sick days per year? YES

If elected, would you oppose legislation that would excuse employers from their obligation under the FLSA to pay a cash premium for overtime work if they offer their employees comp time off? YES

If elected, would you support the Schedules that Work Act that would empower hourly employees with greater scheduling flexibility and certainty? YES

Comments

As a State Delegate, I have been a long-time fighter and will continue to support paid sick leave, as well as expand protections against abusive employer practices such as just-in time scheduling of work hours.

Q28: 7. IMMIGRANT WORKERS The AFL-CIO supports comprehensive immigration reform and has strongly advocated for keeping families together, creating a roadmap to citizenship, and halting the race to the bottom in wage and work standards by employers who are taking advantage of the failures in our immigration policy. Immigration reform must be done in a comprehensive manner to protect U.S. workers and reduce the exploitation of immigrant workers. The most effective way to eliminate the competitive advantage unscrupulous employers gain by hiring undocumented immigrants or captive guest workers is to ensure all workers – immigrant and native-born – are paid prevailing wages and have the full protection of labor, health and safety and other laws. Immigration reform must include five major interconnected pieces: (1) a broad and inclusive roadmap to citizenship; (2) an independent, professional bureau to measure labor shortages and ensure that foreign workers are not being brought into the country to displace U.S. workers or lower industry wages and working conditions; (3) improvement, not expansion, of existing temporary worker programs; (4) a secure and effective work authorization mechanism that treats workers fairly; and (5) rational and humane border control measures. In addition, the AFL-CIO has been calling upon the White House to halt unnecessary deportations since spring 2013 because our broken immigration system is an invitation for employer manipulation and abuse, and U.S.-born workers as well as immigrant workers are paying the price. We believe that President Obama's November 20, 2014 announcement was an important step toward rational and humane enforcement of immigration law, and that much more can and should be done. By extending relief and work authorization to an estimated 4 million people, the

Obama Administration will help prevent unscrupulous employers from using unprotected workers to drive down wages and conditions for all workers in our country. Although this fix will be temporary, it will allow millions of people to live and work without fear, and afford them the status to assert their rights on the job. The Administration operated within its authority to advance the moral and economic interests of our country. We are actively defending the newly created programs, while pushing for further executive actions to protect workers who remain vulnerable to wage theft, retaliation, and other forms of exploitation.

If elected, would you support comprehensive immigration reform and oppose efforts to enact enforcement-only legislation? YES

If elected, would you support legislation that provides a timely and certain roadmap to citizenship? YES

If elected, would you support immigration reform that protects all workers by establishing an independent bureau that makes rational assessments of short-term and long-term labor market shortages and makes recommendations on levels of new entry into the workforce based on actual labor market needs? YES

If elected, would you support efforts to reform existing temporary worker programs by enhancing workplace protections, strengthening oversight and enforcement and creating new methods to investigate and penalize employers who abuse workers? YES

If elected, would you oppose measures to defund or otherwise block deferred action and other much needed protections for immigrant workers? YES

If elected, would you support legislation to de-criminalize immigrant communities and draw clear lines of separation between immigration enforcement and law enforcement? YES

Comments Immigration laws and policies can only be fix at the federal level. As an immigrant from EL Salvador, one of my top three priorities will be to address and fix the many broken and inhumane immigration policies and practices.

Q29: 8. RETIREMENT AND INCOME SECURITY: PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY,
 continued...Contrary to some claims, Social Security has not added a dime to the federal debt nor has it contributed to projected long-term deficits because it is required to pay benefits from dedicated payroll tax revenues and savings from its trust fund. By law, it is prohibited from borrowing or going into debt. Moreover, Social Security is not in crisis. Social Security has a \$2.7 trillion trust fund and can pay all promised benefits in full until 2034. Thereafter, even without any changes to the program, Social Security will have sufficient revenue to pay 77 percent of scheduled benefits. Over the next 75 years, Social Security's modest funding shortfall amounts to less than one percent of GDP, and can be addressed without any benefit cuts to current or future retirees. Indeed, several recent proposals demonstrate that Social Security can achieve long term solvency by raising the cap on wages that are subject to the payroll tax (set at \$118,500 for 2015), as well as increase benefits for future retirees. Disability benefits are another vital component of the program, and Congress must act to avert depletion of the Disability Insurance (DI) trust fund in late 2016, when incoming revenue will cover only 80% of benefits to current and future beneficiaries. This necessity, however, poses no crisis. As it has done many times, Congress can temporarily reallocate the Social Security payroll tax between the retirement trust fund (the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance or "OASDI" fund) and the DI trust fund, increasing DI's share of the 6.2 percent payroll tax would equalize the actuarial status of the two trust funds; neither would be depleted until 2033. Another approach is simply to combine the two funds, as there is no current rationale for two separate trust funds. The projected disability fund shortfall in 2016 masks the actual fundamental soundness of the program as a whole. Social Security's overall surplus of \$2 trillion is enough to pay 100 percent of all earned benefits, both retirement and disability, through 2033. The AFL-CIO is committed to improving workers' retirement security through legislation that protects and strengthens defined benefit plans and legislation that not only ensures Social Security's long-term solvency, but also increases benefits.

If elected, would you oppose measures to replace any part of Social Security's guaranteed benefits with individual investment accounts? YES

If elected, would you oppose efforts to reduce Social Security's guaranteed benefits under current law, including proposals to: (1) increase the retirement age (which is already increasing to 67 under current law); (2) change the calculation for the annual cost of living adjustment; (3) change the benefit formula; or (4) institute means testing? YES

If elected, would you support measures to strengthen retirement income security by increasing Social Security benefits? YES

If elected, would you support a temporary reallocation of the Social Security payroll tax between the OASDI and DI trust funds or a permanent combining of the two trust funds? YES

If elected, would you oppose proposals that cut federal employees' retirement benefits? YES

Comments

I oppose any legislation that would reduce benefits and/or weaken the Social Security system.

Q30: 9. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH Four decades ago, Congress enacted the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) in response to the unacceptable number of workers who were being killed or seriously injured in the workplace. Since then, significant progress has been made, but the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities remains high. Each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more injured or diseased because of their jobs. And some groups of workers, including Latino workers and immigrant workers, are at much greater risk due to the dangerous conditions and lack of protections. Millions of workers are not covered by the law, and for other workers, protections are inadequate. After eight years of hostility and neglect by the Bush Administration, the Obama Administration moved to strengthen worker safety protections by appointing strong worker safety and health advocates to head OSHA and MSHA, increasing the job safety budget, and enhancing enforcement. Much needed safety and health rules, which started to move in 2009 and stalled in the face of strong anti-regulatory attacks in the 112th and 113th Congresses, are again moving forward. As noted, the 112th Congress ushered in an era of budget cuts and attacks on regulatory safeguards to protect workers, the public and the environment. House Republicans pushed numerous pieces of legislation that would roll back and stop important protections and virtually shut down the entire process for issuing all regulations. These attacks have continued in the 113th Congress. Workers need stronger safety and health protections. The OSH Act needs to be updated and strengthened. Legislation (The Protecting America's Workers Act) has been proposed in the past several congresses to expand the OSH Act's coverage to all workers, to strengthen whistleblower protections and to strengthen enforcement, all of which the AFL-CIO strongly supports.

If elected, would you support legislation to extend OSHA coverage to the millions of state and local employees currently excluded from the OSH Act? YES

If elected, would you support legislation to strengthen whistleblower protections for workers who raise job safety concerns? YES

If elected, would you support legislation that would make criminal violations involving a death of a worker a felony instead of a misdemeanor? YES

If elected, would you support increases in the job safety budget to strengthen standard setting, enforcement and worker safety and health training programs? YES

If elected, would you oppose efforts to weaken or defund OSHA's and MSHA's regulatory and enforcement programs? YES

If elected, would you oppose legislation that would make it more difficult or impossible for government agencies to develop and issue new needed YES

safeguards to protect workers, the public and consumers?

Comments

I strongly support all measures, standards, regulations, and work-place programs that increase job safety and will strongly oppose efforts to weaken or defund OSHA and MSHA's programs.

Q31: 10. FINANCIAL REGULATION Deregulated financial markets have taken a terrible toll on America's working families. Whether measured in lost jobs and homes, lower earnings, eroding retirement security or devastated communities, workers have paid the price for Wall Street's greed. But in reality, the cost of deregulation and financial alchemy are far higher. The lasting damage is in missed opportunities and investments not made in the real economy. While money continues to be poured into exotic mortgage-backed securities and hedge funds, our pressing need for investments in clean energy, infrastructure, education and health care continue to go unmet. In 2010 President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. Its enactment set the foundation needed to rebuild our country's financial sector and bring accountability to Wall Street. Nonetheless, there have been unremitting attempts to stall its implementation and to defund the very programs and agencies chosen to resolve our nation's financial crisis.

If elected, would you support maintaining an autonomous and adequately funded Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and support the single Director structure? YES

If elected, would you support increased funding to the Securities and Exchange Commission with jurisdiction to regulate hedge funds, derivatives, private equity and many new investment vehicles that are developed, as directed in the Dodd -Frank law? NO

If elected, would you support increased funding to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission? YES

Comments

We must continue to strengthen Dodd-Frank and ensure effective and transparent regulatory oversight of financial markets.

Q32: 11. EDUCATION It is in the interest of our nation that we maintain quality public education for all of our children. Private school vouchers, K-12 education savings accounts and other schemes, such as education tax credits for K-12 private school expenses, undermine public education by taking scarce public funds away from public schools, which are open to all students, and shifting them to private schools. Too many of our nation's rural, suburban and urban public schools are overcrowded and in poor condition. A growing number of public schools all across the country are being forced to set up classrooms in trailers, hallways and closets in order to accommodate their rapidly rising enrollments. One-third of all public schools also need extensive repair or replacement.

If elected, would you oppose all private school voucher proposals and other schemes intended to divert taxpayer dollars from public to private schools? YES

If elected, would you support legislation that would help states and local school districts reduce their class size, provide professional development and support for teachers and other school staff— particularly for staff working in schools serving high numbers of disadvantaged students.

YES

If elected, would you support proposals to increase federal support for school repair, construction and modernization projects at local prevailing wages?

YES

Comments

As a former MoCo School Board Member (8 years) as well as over 13 years in the MD General Assembly, I will continue to make education reform and equity one of my top priorities in Congress.

Q33: 12. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, PRIVATIZATION AND THE POSTAL SERVICE Citing budgetary pressures and, in some cases, ideology, government officials continue to support the widespread use of private contractors to perform government work. However, recent studies have found that cronyism, cost overruns and poor performance often result from the rush to contract public work to the private sector. These studies have shown that privatization schemes are often shortsighted, inefficient and unnecessary. Moreover, our nation should not be relying on private firms to make crucial decisions where confidentiality, national security, unbiased information and public accountability are paramount. Recognizing the sacrifices of veterans of the Armed Forces, Congress enacted laws to prevent veterans seeking federal jobs from being penalized for their time in military service. Veterans Preference recognizes the economic loss suffered by citizens who served their country in uniform, restores veterans to a favorable competitive position for government employment and acknowledges the larger obligation owed to disabled veterans.

If elected, would you oppose efforts to privatize public services and instead support efforts to work with public employees to improve services through cooperative job redesign, training and labor-management coordination?

YES

If elected, would you support legislation that would prevent funding for OMB Circular A-76 privatization process activities until its well-documented problems have been corrected?

YES

If elected, would you support measures that would ensure equal caps on service contract spending so that civilian personnel and contractors are working under the same constraints?

YES

If elected, would you oppose any legislation that would

YES

repeal or weaken Veterans' Preference?

If elected, will you oppose proposals to cut the pay and benefits of federal and postal employees and support postal reforms that will maintain 2011 service standards by preserving the Postal Service's retail, processing and six-day delivery network?

YES

Comments

I am strongly opposed to privatization of any public or quasi-public functions.

Q34: 13. NONDISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE Since there is no federal law that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, it is currently legal to fire working men and women in 33 states because of their sexual orientation. As a result, working people can be denied employment opportunities on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work. The AFL-CIO strongly opposes employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Today, pregnant women are forced out of their jobs and denied reasonable accommodations that would enable them to continue working and supporting their families. The Pregnant Workers Fairness act would help end this discrimination and promote the health and economic security of pregnant women and their families.

If elected, would you support legislation to outlaw employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender expression?

YES

If elected, would you support legislation to outlaw discrimination against pregnant workers?

YES

Comments

Based on my strong history in the Maryland General Assembly in support of legislative protections against discrimination, I will continue to fight for federal level protections based on sexual orientation and gender preferences.

Q35: 14. EQUAL PAY In 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act to end the widespread practice of pay discrimination against women. The Equal Pay Act makes it unlawful to pay women less than men for work deemed substantially equal and/or identical, unless the pay difference is based on seniority, experience or other legitimate factors. Although equal pay has been the law for 44 years, women with similar education, skills and experience are still paid less than their male counterparts.

If elected, would you support federal legislation to end pay discrimination against women and provide more effective remedies for its victims?

YES

Comments

I am and will always be a strong supporter of equal pay for women. We must also strengthen the oversight and enforcement of existing laws to end violations in the workplace throughout the nation.

Q36: 15. VOTING RIGHTS In 2013, the Supreme Court crippled the 1965 Voting Rights Act by gutting the requirement that certain jurisdictions with a history of voting discrimination get preapproval before making changes to their voting laws. In response to the Shelby County v. Holder decision,

Reps. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and John Conyers (D-MI) have introduced bi-partisan legislation to provide new tools to combat voter discrimination. During the past two years, more than 30 states have introduced bills or enacted laws that would curb access to voting, including laws that are specifically designed to suppress the votes of people young voters, the disadvantaged and people of color. Florida and Texas both passed legislation to make it harder for volunteer organizations like the League of Women Voters to register voters. Several states require or are considering requiring a photo ID to vote. Additionally, some states including Kansas, are requiring citizens show proof of citizenship to register. At the same time, more than 500,000 U.S. citizens live in our nation's capital and fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship every day. However, while they serve in the armed forces, pay federal taxes, and sit on federal juries, they have no voting representation in the U.S. Congress. This intolerable situation is an affront to the very principles of democracy we hold dear.

If elected, would you support H.R. 885, legislation that would strengthen the 1965 Voting Right Act in response the decision in Shelby County?

YES

If elected, would you oppose efforts to erect any obstacle to voting, including those based on economic condition or race?

YES

If elected, would you support efforts to promote greater voter participation, including early voting?

YES

If elected, would you support universal voter registration and oppose all barriers to universal registration?

YES

If elected, would you support legislation that would allow the delegate elected by citizens of the District of Columbia to vote in the House of Representatives?

YES

If elected, would you support reversing the Buckley and Citizens United Supreme Court decisions?

YES

If elected, would you support efforts to curb gerrymandering and restore faith in our democracy?

YES

Comments

I am proud of my record in Maryland as we have significantly expanded and promoted voting access in Maryland and continue to fight for greater voter participation by all US citizens. On redistricting, I introduced legislation to establish minimum standards in Congressional redistricting in Maryland to limit gerrymandering of districts. In 2012, I was one of only four votes in the House of Delegates who voted against the extremely gerrymandered map of Maryland districts.

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