Arvadans for Progressive Action

Questions for State Legislative and Governor Candidates 2022

Lindsey Daugherty House District 24

1. Have you read the report on healthcare commissioned by HB19-1176? What will you do to implement its recommendation for a single payer system to pay for healthcare?

Yes, I have read the report and I advocate for affordable and accessible healthcare for all Coloradans. I have a history of supporting affordable and accessible healthcare in my voting record. For example, I supported SB22-172: Colorado Rural Health-care Workforce Initiative which establishes and funds a workforce initiative to expand the number of health-care professionals practicing in rural or frontier counties. I also supported SB22-200: Rural Provider Stimulus Grant Program which creates a grant program for rural hospitals to expand access to telehealth services and increases access to care. Both of these bills help one of Colorado’s most vulnerable populations receive the healthcare they deserve and need. I will continue to support legislation that provides accessible and affordable healthcare to all Coloradans.

With regards specifically to a single payer system, as an attorney, I know that you have to follow state and federal constraints on legislation. Specifically, single payer healthcare can be done here in Colorado, but only after the necessary bureaucratic requirements have been met. The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) is the primary legal constraint for enacting single payer legislation here in Colorado. I do not know of a way around ERISA at the federal level in order to practically implement a single payer system, however I am always open to ideas if you have any!

This year the Colorado state legislature has invested over $450 million into behavioral health programs. I have supported and will continue to support like-minded bills such as HB22-1285 that ensures Coloradans don’t face surprise medical bills and HB22-1370 that reduces the exorbitant costs of prescription medicine. I also supported HB22-1284 which requires hospitals to disclose their prices and HB22-1008 which makes fertility treatment more affordable. Also, starting next year, Coloradans can purchase the new Colorado Option health care plan on the individual market which will save individuals and small companies money (HB21-1232). It is a good start, but there is still needed work to be done for getting Coloradans the most affordable and accessible healthcare which I intend on doing when I am re-elected.

2. Would you support raising taxes on the wealthy with a constitutional

amendment for a graduated income tax? What other ideas do you have to

help with Colorado’s fiscal situation?

I believe that all Coloradans should have to pay their fair share in taxes. Sadly, this is not exactly the case right now. My recent bill, the TABOR refund bill, is a progressive tax refund that gets money back to the people in Colorado in a much quicker way during a time when Coloradans are struggling. I also sponsored legislation the past two years in the area of worker’s compensation law that helped to further workers protections in a workplace.

3. The state legislature has passed a bill committing the state to cut climate pollution (from 2005 levels) 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050. What further legislation will you promote in order to achieve those goals, and how will you address vehicle emissions as part of the framework?

Climate pollution is a crisis that we need to take seriously. I pledge to do all I can to effectively combat climate change and to reach those goals, as stated above. Already in my two years in office I have supported legislation that combats climate change through the framework of vehicle emissions. For example, I supported the bill SB22-180 which helps to reduce transportation emissions by investing $58 million in increasing access to transit during ozone season and $10 million in the Revitalizing Main Streets grant program for communities that improve air quality through increased use of public transit. I have also supported the bill HB22-1244 which requires emissions control regulations to reduce toxic air pollution and identifies and regulates Colorado’s air quality through monitoring hazardous air toxics. Additionally, I supported HB22-1362 which helps to reduce indoor and outdoor air pollutants and saves people money on their energy bills by updating the standards of energy efficient building codes. HB22-1362 also provides $25 million to local governments and communities to assist with local decarbonization efforts. I will continue to advocate for our environment so that we are not putting more pollutants than necessary into our air. We can cut a lot of our vehicle emissions if we invest in things like accessible public transportation and have updated vehicle emission standards. I will continue to fight to cut climate change so that we have a sustainable future here in Colorado.

4. What is your position regarding public schools, including charter schools,

school choice programs and the use of standardized tests to evaluate

schools and teachers? What will you do to strengthen our public school

system?

As someone who has gone through our public school system in Colorado, I care deeply about our public school system and advocate for increasing funding for public schools. Charter schools and voucher programs deplete necessary resources from public schools. Standardized tests are not always equitable to evaluate students and teachers as the tests do not take into account the various economic and social backgrounds of the students and teachers involved. I advocate for more equity and equality in the education system and I want to strengthen public schools by giving them more access to modern technology so that students have the resources necessary to achieve success.

5. How will you address the needs of the undocumented children who have

only known the U.S. as their home country?

Undocumented children are one of the most vulnerable populations in our country. They should absolutely be treated with dignity, respect, and kindness and need to be properly cared for so that they are set up for a successful future. As an attorney who works mainly in the area of juvenile law and defends abused and neglected children in the courtroom, this is the area that I prefer to bring legislation in at the capitol. I will continue to do all I can for the youth in this country, whether that is our foster youth, undocumented children, or the abused and neglected children I represent in a courtroom.

6. How will you address affordable housing, attainable housing, and housing

for the homeless?

Affordable housing is sadly impacting more and more Coloradeons every year. We need to work on creative and effective solutions to the housing crisis. For many, affordable housing does not even exist and this needs to be fixed as families should not be pushed out of their homes for unmanageable growth. I recently held a town hall on this issue where we discussed the problems and potential solutions, in addition to the legislation that we ran this year. I supported SB22-159, which created a revolving loan program to finance affordable workhouse housing, senior housing, housing designed for people living with disabilities and more. I also supported SB22-146, which expanded critical workforce housing so that middle-income families can access affordable housing in the communities they work in, among other housing legislation.

7. Do you support the right of workers, as well as public employees, to

organize and engage in collective bargaining?

I supported the collective bargaining bill, SB22-230, that was passed this year which ensured that more than 36,000 essential workers are now able to collectively bargain. As stated above, I have also worked to further protect workers in the workplace in many pieces of legislation I have sponsored, and will continue to do so.

8. Do you support legislation to ban private correctional facilities in Colorado?

I have worked as an attorney for many years now so I know firsthand how the criminal justice system works and its flaws. Making sure that people in prison and jail are well-taken care of is essential for their ability to be successfully rehabilitated. I know this first-hand, as my younger brother has a felony DUI and an addiction issue. It took the effort of my entire family to help get him into the successful position that he is today. Private prisons have been found to be less safe and cost more with their bottom-line being profits. As such, I support banning private correctional facilities in Colorado, similar to what other states have also recently enacted.