



## REV UP Florida! Questions for Candidates for '18 U.S. Senate Race

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1. According to a [recent report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Florida has the third highest percentage of uninsured adults in the United States at 20.1 percent. If the state were to expand Medicaid, an estimated 384,000 people would be eligible for coverage. *If elected Senator, would you support expansion of Medicaid coverage in the state as prescribed in the Affordable Care Act of 2010, or through a similar federal participation initiative? Do you support or oppose proposals to block grant Medicaid spending or to convert this funding to a per-capita cap system in Florida? Why or why not?*
2. The Americans with Disabilities Act (the ADA) is a landmark civil rights law passed nearly three decades ago prohibiting discrimination based on disability, and further requiring government buildings, businesses, and other places of public accommodation to be accessible to people with disabilities. Legislation before Congress such as H.R. 620 (the ADA Education and Reform Act) would require specific "notification" procedures and "cure" mechanisms that substantially delay the process of fixing accessibility barriers, place the responsibility of identifying barriers upon people with disabilities, and essentially allow businesses to take a "wait and see" approach to ADA compliance. *If elected Senator, would you support or oppose ADA notification bills such as H.R. 620?*
3. In June, FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination announced that the number of disability integration advisors (DIAs) deployed to states by FEMA in federally-declared disasters will be reduced from approximately 60 to only 5 per disaster. In August, the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities [wrote to DHS](#) objecting to the move, and noting that shifting the burden for emergency response without detailed guidance and instruction to state and local governments threatened the rights and safety of people with disabilities. *How should the federal government and states work together to ensure the safety and planning of disability populations during disasters and other emergencies?*
4. Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), passed in 1938, authorizes employers to pay subminimum wages to workers with disabilities. Consequently, segregated programs – such as pre-employment services and sheltered workshops – often pay subminimum wages to people with

disabilities who otherwise prefer to work in competitive, integrated settings. If elected Senator, what steps would you take to enable people with disabilities to move from segregated employment to community-integrated employment of their choice? Would you work to phase out Section 14(c) of FLSA?

5. Americans with disabilities face many barriers to voting, including inaccessible polling places and voting equipment, difficulty getting to polling places, and poorly-informed election officials and poll workers. *If elected Senator, what will you do to ensure voters with disabilities have equal access to the fundamental right to vote, and that the state's voting systems and mechanisms promote and accommodate this access?*
  
6. In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court held in its landmark Olmstead decision that states are required to eliminate unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities, who should otherwise receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Fifteen years after Olmstead, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings [rule requirements](#) to ensure that Medicaid's HCBS programs in residential and non-residential settings provide full access to the benefits of community-living and offer services in the most integrated settings. Last year, however, [CMS extended the deadline](#) for states to be in compliance with the HCBS Settings rule by three years, from 2019 to 2022. *If elected Senator, will you work to close segregated institutional-like settings for people with disabilities in the state by finalizing state compliance deadlines for these regulations?*
  
7. The Disability Integration Act (S. 910 and H.R. 2472) is bipartisan civil rights legislation that would complement the ADA and accelerate the pace of people with disabilities leaving institutions, including by describing with specificity the steps that must be taken by states and providers of insurance covering long-term services and supports to achieve community integration. *If elected Senator, will you support the Disability Integration Act or similar legislation, and what investments will you make in expanding long-term service and support options for people with disabilities?*
  
8. Large portions of the disability community adhere to the proverb "nothing about us, without us" as a guiding or foundational tenet of sorts. *What work have you done with disability-led organizations? What is your prior experience addressing and responding to disability issues, and how will you ensure that people with disabilities play an active role in your administration? If elected Senator, how would you make or approach new investments in consumer- or advocate-led organizations to further the leadership of those with disabilities and the movements for freedom and self-determination in Florida?*