



Questions for Congressional Candidates

1. Most Massachusetts residents know someone who has needed long-term services or care due to issues related to aging or disabilities or experienced it themselves. Has anyone close to you needed nursing home care, congregate living arrangements, or home and community-based services such as personal care assistants? What implications for public policy and regulatory enforcement do you draw from this experience?
2. *The Nursing Home Improvement and Accountability Act* (S 2694 / HR 5169 in the 117th Congress) is one of several federal bills that we believe would help to correct serious shortcomings in nursing homes. Will you agree to support this legislation?
3. Pre-pandemic, home and community-based staffing was a challenge. Post-pandemic, it has become a crisis, forcing many frail elders and persons with a disability to be at risk due to a lack of available caregivers and often facing nursing home placements. What can be done from the federal perspective to address this crisis?
4. A recent AARP survey of adults shows that 3 out of 4 adults aged 50 years and older want to remain at home and out of nursing homes by utilizing home and community-based services such as personal care assistants, home health aides, durable medical equipment, and / or technology. What do you see as key components of a robust system of home and community-based services? What will you do to advocate for them? Do you support increased funding for home and community-based supports and services?
5. Social Security and Medicare provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. What have you done (will you do) to protect and enhance these vital programs and will you pledge to fight against attempts to weaken or repeal them?
6. Individuals with disabilities are over three times more likely than non-disabled people to be sexually assaulted, according to federal statistics, putting them at high risk of needing access to affordable reproductive health services including abortion. With the Supreme Court's recent ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*, how will you, as a Member of Congress, work to protect the reproductive and other rights of women living with disabilities both in Massachusetts and those looking to come to Massachusetts from other more restrictive states?
7. The safety, well-being, and rights of persons with disabilities and older adults living in public as well as subsidized housing have had little or no protection. Issues include but are not limited to failure to protect victims from bullying and mobbing; failure to grant reasonable accommodations to disabled persons; and evictions leading to homelessness and emotional and physical trauma. Accountability is lacking. What can the Department

of Housing and Development and other federal agencies do to assure the safety and rights of people in these situations?

8. Affordable, accessible transportation is lacking across the state.

What measures will you support to ensure elders and those with disabilities can access dependable, safe, and affordable transportation to allow them to live fully in their community?

9. Census data show 12 to 15 % of the population identify as living with a disability and 20% are older adults.

Will you commit to hiring individuals as staff members with disabilities and older adults?

Will you ensure your staff are reflective of the general population with diversity?

10. Do you support proposals such as S 880 /HR 2062 in the 117th Congress to protect older workers from discrimination?