

**Responses from Presidential Candidates:
Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke,
Joe Sestak, Marianne Williamson and Andrew Yang**

Question 1: People with disabilities are twice as likely to be living in poverty and four times as likely to be unemployed as the general U.S. population. Has your office or campaign yet put out a policy agenda that would impact the financial stability and security of people with disabilities?

Gillibrand: I support the phase out of the antiquated practice of paying people with disabilities a subminimum wage and believe we need providers to be transitioning from 14(c) wage employment to competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities. I am a cosponsor of the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act, which will phase out the subminimum wage for people with disabilities while providing support and oversight for the transition period. I also support the Raise the Wage Act, which will get rid of the subminimum wage for people with disabilities. I believe that equal pay is fundamental to this country and an important step toward the broader goal of encouraging self-sufficiency. To help achieve that goal, I have supported the ABLE Act since I joined the Senate in 2009 and I supported the ABLE to Work Act to allow people with disabilities and their families to save money while retaining their benefits.

Harris: As president, I will fight for full inclusion for people with disabilities. That's why, during this campaign, I have outlined specific steps we will take together to ensure financial stability and security for people with disabilities. For example, people with disabilities have the right to work a job that pays the minimum wage or higher--absolutely nothing less. That's why I am a proud co-sponsor of the Raise the Wage Act, which would eliminate the subminimum wage and raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Eliminating the subminimum wage is about ensuring justice and equality, and it's past time we get it done.

As we fight for just wages, we also must fight for increased opportunity. We've made so much progress since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, but people with disabilities are still being left out of the workforce too often. We need to do more.

That's why as president, I will fight to ensure students with disabilities have adequately funded classrooms, expand access to integrated employment opportunities, and build a diverse federal workforce that includes people with disabilities. I'll also fight to pass the Disability Integration Act so that individuals can receive long term services at home and in their communities and the

Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act to support better inclusive employment opportunities.

Klobuchar: Senator Klobuchar is committed to promoting financial stability and security for people with disabilities. That begins with education. She has consistently supported fully funding the IDEA, and as President, she will make sure these grants are fully funded. She is also an original cosponsor of the *Raise the Wage Act*, which would guarantee that all workers are paid at least the federal minimum wage by phasing out the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities. As President, Senator Klobuchar will make a \$15 minimum wage for all workers a priority and put a \$15 minimum wage place for all federal contractors during the first 100 days of her presidency. As part of her housing plan, she will strengthen housing programs that assist people with disabilities.

O'Rourke: Beto believes all citizens, with or without disabilities, should be able to earn a fair and reasonable wage, with workplaces that are not segregated based on disability. Beto believes individuals with disabilities should earn the same wage as those without disabilities for performing similar work.

We know that, unfortunately, federal law currently allows individuals with a disability to be paid a subminimum wage. In Congress, Beto co-sponsored the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act of 2017, which would have changed the Fair Labor Standards Act to prevent employers from legally paying workers with disabilities less than minimum wage. Beto also co-sponsored the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014 that helped individuals create tax-free saving accounts so that people with disabilities could pay for disability-related expenses. Furthermore, Beto encourages Congress to pass the related proposed legislation, known as the ABLE Age Adjustment Act to increase the age threshold for eligibility to benefit even more Americans with disabilities.

Beto will issue an executive order during his first 100 days, requiring all federal agencies and contractors to hire affirmatively qualified individuals with disabilities. Beto will appoint qualified cabinet officials with disabilities in his administration. These officials will give his administration a deeper understanding of how to include people with disabilities in policy priorities. If the federal

government has qualified administrators with various disabilities, our policies and legislation would better address the major issues facing the disability community.

Beto also believes we must increase federal funding of IDEA to 40% (the federal government's contribution is currently 14.7%), to ensure students with disabilities receive the instruction they need to graduate, and either obtain meaningful employment, or continue on to post-secondary education. Beto will work with Congress to raise and clarify the IDEA requirements that public schools must follow in order to provide students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Related to these aims is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which must be preserved and regulations enforced as a strong mandate to ensure access to competitive integrated employment. Key to the success of this and related programs is the deliberate focus and inclusivity of, individuals with the most significant support needs. An O'Rourke Administration will urge Congress to pass the "Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act" that would require institutions of higher education to accept IEP's and Section 504 Plans as documentation of students' disabilities when students are seeking accommodations from these institutions. This bill would cut the costs and burdens on qualified students with disabilities who are otherwise required by these institutions to obtain evaluations to get accommodations.

Beto will seek best practices and seek to expand on successful programs that provide a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach. For example, Beto supports increased federal support for U.S. Dept. of Labor and Office of Disability Employment Policy priorities such as the Employment First program which has been largely successful in many states by helping to increase access to meaningful, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities, as well as individuals with significant disabilities.

Beto understands that policy necessary to positively impact such dire rates of unemployment, under-employment and poverty for people with disabilities will require a focus on a number of related and complex issues including, but not limited to: health care and related costs, affordable/accessible/integrated housing, reliable accessible transportation, threats to Medicaid, Social Security (SSI) and disability programs (SSDI), and the enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As President, Beto will look for opportunities to work with Congress and ensure we have adequate funding to help people find jobs, expansion of training, staff and programs to help people with disabilities find work, as well as more business and tax incentives for businesses to hire people with disabilities. Beto encourages Congress to support the passage of legislation that will further best practices, and to support the Disability Employment Incentive Act (TDEI) in an effort to further these aims.

Beto will fully support Senator Casey's proposed bill called the Office of Disability Policy Act of 2018. This office would be a nonpartisan entity within the federal government. It would provide analysis of the effects of federal legislation on people with disabilities and their families.

If elected, Beto will have a presidential advisor with a disability in the White House. This advisor will work with Beto, Congress and disability organizations to craft effective policies to boost the integrated employment of people with disabilities and to increase the income levels of the disability community.

A presidential advisor will hold town hall meetings throughout the year to collaborate with the disability community. People with disabilities will get an opportunity to provide feedback on his administration's work on disability issues.

Sestak: As a Congressman, I always worked hard to help people with disabilities. From introducing legislation that secured the first increase in funding for autism (\$27 million) in 12 years to having braille business cards as a Congressman, I have made serving people with disabilities a top priority. It is why I co-sponsored a bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), making it broader and more inclusive (in response to court decisions that had limited it), and why I supported legislation to ensure that qualified workers do not experience discrimination due to a disability. I strongly supported the Affordable Care Act, which enshrined the right to coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, including people with disabilities. My full disability policy is on my presidential campaign website ([link](#)), which is also ADA compliant at the AA level.

As President, I will continue to fight for people with disabilities. I will pass the Disability Integration Act, which would prevent people with disabilities from being

forced into institutions against their wishes by providing home and community-based services as alternatives. I will ban the use of aversive treatments like electric shocks, which are shamefully still in use in some government-regulated residential group homes. Food insecurity and housing insecurity are perpetual issues in the disability community, and I will increase nutrition assistance for all people who need public assistance while also increasing funding for public housing. I will increase funding for higher education and job training, and support for small business development, especially among historically marginalized communities, including people with disabilities. And — key to increasing employment of people with disabilities — I will significantly raise the monthly income limit to qualify for both Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, because both are currently too low, at levels that discourage people who need the supplemental income from taking on more work hours or accepting a promotion, or even taking a job in the first place. We should also extend the "trial work" time period, so people with disabilities seeking to re-join the workforce can try full-time employment for up to two years without risking their benefits.

And I will work hard to increase voting rights for people with disabilities, because they are their best advocates, they deserve full participation in our democracy, and their participation will doubtless improve their lives and the lives of other people with disabilities in the future. Shamefully, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report, some 60% of polling places in the United States have at least one impediment to accessibility for people with disabilities — though any such impediments are legally prohibited. The federal government must use its power to guarantee voting rights to all Americans, and as President I will ensure that it does.

Williamson: What I have found on my campaign, visiting such places as the Center for the Blind and Opportunity Village (for the intellectually impaired) in Las Vegas, Nevada, is that it is often people with disabilities who have the strongest desire to work. It's a new time culturally in relation to this topic, with a growing realization in America that what some call "disabled" is in many ways simply "different." "Different" is not necessarily "less than," for everyone has their gifts.

It is unacceptable that half of people with disabilities have household incomes of \$35,000 or less. We must do better.

We need to expand opportunities for the differently abled. We need to open doors so people with disabilities get the education and employment they need to be able to earn a livelihood and contribute to society to the best of their ability.

As president I would work to advance the financial stability and capability of people with disabilities through the following steps:

- * Break down the barriers that people with disabilities face to full participation in the financial system including improving access to credit and financial understanding of and access to money management, banking and other life skills.
- * Ensure universal health care for all by making Medicare available to people of all ages on the health exchanges.
- * Provide free education and training for qualified students in community colleges, colleges and trade schools. Ensure people with disabilities can access all educational and training programs.
- * Prepare children with disabilities for post-secondary education, employment, and independent living, including children with the most significant disabilities.
- * Direct the federal government to enforce the rights of those with disabilities to education, training and job opportunities.
- * Ensure that people with disabilities get the full minimum wage for their work, and not a sub-minimum wage.
- * Increase funding for assistive technology for people with disabilities and others who may need such technology to facilitate effective and independent community engagement.

* Enact the paid FAMILY Act where workers would be paid up to 12 weeks at 66% of their wages up to a capped amount to care for themselves or a loved one dealing with a new child or health issue. This would enable some family members to be paid to assist relatives with a disability.

* Shift the tax burden away from working people back onto corporations and the very wealthy so that workers with disabilities get to keep more of the income they earn. Specific steps include expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (where workers earning below a certain level pay no taxes and actually get paid by the government), repealing the 2017 tax bonanza for corporations and the very wealthy, and restoring fair tax rates where the wealthy pay their fair share.

Yang: My signature policy, the Freedom Dividend, would provide all American citizens over the age of 18 with \$1000/month. This would provide a stable source of income for people with disabilities to provide for their basic needs.

I also support a Medicare for All system (see answer below) that would provide coverage for all Americans who want it with the majority of costs covered.

Question 2: During the current presidential administration, enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act has received limited attention. If you were to become president, what would you do to revitalize the efforts of the Department of Justice to enforce the law?

Gillibrand: I've been a consistent advocate in the fight for equality, and I will always stand up for communities whose rights are threatened. My Department of Justice will ensure that people with disabilities will receive all of the protections that they are entitled to. To that end, I've pledged to appoint a person with a disability to a position in my cabinet.

Harris: There's no question we need to revitalize enforcement of the ADA. I believe we need both new leadership and a renewed focus on this issue to get us there. The Trump Administration has completely abdicated its responsibility to enforce this important law. For example, the Trump DOJ stopped rulemaking to update the ADA's standards for accessible medical treatment, making a visit to the doctor's office even harder for people with disabilities. As president, I will

recommit the federal government to completing this rulemaking and to fully enforcing the ADA.

As the former Attorney General of California, I was the head of the second largest Department of Justice in the United States. So I know the impact strong enforcement of civil rights laws can have on the lives of Americans. I will appoint an Attorney General who prioritizes enforcement of the ADA and I will double the size of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to ensure we have the resources to back up that commitment.

Klobuchar: The Trump Administration has failed to enforce the law and stand up for people with disabilities. As president, Senator Klobuchar will prioritize enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, Senator Klobuchar will reinstate documents protecting the rights of students with disabilities after Secretary DeVos rescinded 72 guidance documents outlining those rights. She will also ban all landlords from discriminating against people based on their income, including disability benefits.

O'Rourke: As a Member of Congress, Beto voted against the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017: a bill which would have weakened the Americans with Disabilities Act. While this bill did not make progress in the Senate, it did pass in the House, signifying the need for the federal government to be more assertive in its support of the ADA, with a strong stance against attempts to diminish or deny the hard-won civil rights of people with disabilities.

As President, Beto will not hesitate to redirect resources at the Department of Justice to ensure robust enforcement of current laws protecting the civil rights of the American people, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. Beto will also reinvigorate the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, providing additional resources to investigate any discrimination, including inequitable access to free, appropriate public education and accommodations for students with disabilities.

As the 29th anniversary of the ADA approaches, we must reaffirm our nation's commitment to inclusion, equality, and the elimination of barriers to public life and community integration for all Americans with disabilities. Beto takes great pride in

the fact that he has a family member with a developmental disability and is well aware of the 1999 landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court known as the Olmstead Decision. Both in his time as a member of Congress and if elected, Beto is committed to ensuring that through federal oversight and enforcement, every state provide people with disabilities access to services “in the most integrated setting”, so that the rights of persons with disabilities under the ADA are realized.

While in Congress, Beto supported the Disability Integration Act as well as the EMPOWER Care Act (formerly Money Follows the Person) to enable increased availability and priority access to home- and community-based services for people with disabilities. Both pieces of legislation will help ensure the freedom from institutionalization upheld by Olmstead becomes a reality no matter where you live. As President, Beto would encourage Congress to pass these measures and end the institutional bias in funding for long term services and supports. We must ensure that the civil rights of persons with disabilities to transition from nursing homes and institutions back into their homes and community where they belong.

Beto will direct the Department of Justice to dramatically increase enforcement of the Olmstead decision to combat unlawful discrimination committed by homeowners’ associations and governmental entities against group homes operators who help people live in the community. This unlawful discrimination includes restrictive covenants prohibiting homeowners from operating businesses out of their homes. Under the federal Fair Housing Act, group homes have the right to seek a reasonable accommodation of an exemption from these restrictive covenants.

Sestak: As a Congressman, I supported legislation to address court decisions which had reduced the number of people covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. I will work to make sure everyone who should be covered by the ADA is covered by it. I will also work to protect and expand the rights enshrined in the ADA, including increased enforcement of the rules that require buildings, workplaces, and public accommodations to be accessible to people with disabilities. I will increase funding and do whatever is necessary to make sure the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission

(EEOC) have the resources necessary to enforce the ADA, and I will order the DOJ to work with states and municipalities to assist in enforcement efforts. I will also instruct the EEOC to increase public education on disability rights in employment so that more people with disabilities can know their rights and challenge employers or potential employers as needed.

I will also never allow legislation along the lines of the innocuously-named but dangerous "ADA Education and Reform Act", which would undermine key portions of the law by denying people with disabilities the right to seek immediate relief in court when they are denied access to a building or public accommodation that by law should be accessible to them. It is wrong to subordinate the rights of people with disabilities to the rights of businesses, as the ADA Education and Reform Act did. The ADA is the most important civil rights legislation of the past four decades, and it must only be strengthened, not weakened.

Williamson: The American Disabilities Act is an important law, but it needs an update, particularly in relation to those with intellectual impairment. We must now as a society open our hearts as well as our institutions to make more room for those who might not have as much physically to give as do some others, yet who have other gifts of equal import.

I would direct the Attorney General to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act vigorously. I would require the Attorney General to work with leaders in the disability community to create a plan on enforcing the ADA, and quarterly reports on the progress being made in enforcement. I would ensure leaders in the disability community have a voice in my administration in all relevant areas including Education and Health.

Yang: While I'd certainly direct my DoJ to enforce the ADA, I think it's a better solution to provide appropriate, positive incentives to entice compliance with the Act. This could take the form of tax incentives for any money spent on complying with the Act, or grants being limited to institutions and organizations in compliance with the Act, or emergency funds being contingent on (and allowed to be used for) upgrades to make buildings more accessible.

Question 3: More than one-third of the U.S. population has a disability or chronic mental health condition. The number one reason that families declare bankruptcy is healthcare costs that they cannot cover. There are many solutions being proposed to improve access to healthcare for all Americans, including those with disabilities. Some of those proposals do not protect people with preexisting conditions, and others would put limits on access to certain types of drugs and mental health counseling because of cost. How will your healthcare proposal be responsive to the needs of Americans with disabilities?

Gillibrand: Insurance coverage for behavioral health services is critical to the health of all Americans and to our ability to address the inadequate access to mental health services that communities across the country are struggling with. I am an original cosponsor of the Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act which would hold health insurers accountable for providing adequate mental health benefits and increase transparency for consumers seeking coverage for mental illness and substance use disorders. I have been a consistent advocate to ensure that people get access to the care they need. I have cosponsored the Disability Integration Act since 2016, and I support its vision of home and community-based care, and not requiring unnecessary institutionalization. I have also fought for funding for Community Mental Health Block Grant to improve community-based services. Physical and mental health outcomes are better for patients that live in their own homes. I opposed Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, gutting the mental health services it guarantees. I believe it is important that we improve access to mental health services for children by expanding services at school. I voted for the Every Student Succeeds Act which provides funding to support mental and behavioral health. We need to be funding these programs and building on them so that we are getting children the help they need early on which we know is of critical importance to mental health outcomes. I've also pledged to fully fund special education. I have been the leader on creating a nationally Paid Family and Medical Leave plan, to ensure that family members and one's self, can take the time they need away from work without losing a paycheck. The FAMILY Act would provide up to 12 weeks of 66% wage replacement in the event of serious personal or family medical emergency.

Harris: I support Medicare for All because it will create a comprehensive healthcare program available to all Americans, including those with disabilities. Medicare for All will cover long-term support services and comprehensive mental health services, reduce prescription drug prices, prioritize community-based services, and end copays and out of pocket costs.

I also recently announced a plan to bring down the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs in this country. My plan will require pharmaceutical companies to set fair prices for prescription drugs and tax profits made from abusive drug prices. And if Congress refuses to act within 100 days, I will take action by investigating price-gouging by pharma companies on my own and take executive action to lower the cost of their drugs.

And we also have to do more to ensure every American can access mental healthcare services no matter where they live. Today in America, more than 120 million people live in an area with a shortage of mental health professionals. That's why I introduced the Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act, which would utilize telemedicine to ensure Americans in rural and under-served areas can receive care. I also introduced the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act, which would incentivize mental health professionals to practice in those areas.

Klobuchar: Senator Klobuchar believes all Americans, including those with disabilities, deserve access to quality, affordable health care. In her first 100 days as president, Senator Klobuchar will propose legislation that gets us to universal health care, which includes creating a public health care option by expanding either Medicare or Medicaid, as well as improving the Affordable Care Act to help bring down costs to consumers through reinsurance, providing cost-sharing reductions, expanding premium subsidies, and continuing delivery system reform. Her legislation will also provide additional consumer protections and lower the costs of prescription drugs through aggressive reforms including lifting the ban that prohibits Medicare from negotiating the best possible price.

Senator Klobuchar has also released a plan to prioritize mental health and addiction. She will take immediate action to combat substance use disorders and prioritize mental health, including launching new prevention and early

intervention initiatives, expanding access to treatment, enforcing mental health parity laws, and giving Americans a path to sustainable recovery. This includes addressing workforce shortages for nurses, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals in many areas of the country and it means addressing the lack of hospital services and treatment beds.

O'Rourke: Beto understands health care is a fundamental right, and recognizes the federal government must play its part in delivering health care to those who need it. And Beto understands how access to healthcare is a life-or-death issue, particularly for people with disabilities. Beto supports the adoption of Medicare for America—a plan that automatically enrolls the uninsured into Medicare, allows individuals unhappy with their private insurance to opt-in to Medicare, yet also permits those who have private insurance and are happy with their plans to keep it. Medicare for America is the best way to guarantee universal coverage, and reduce out of pocket expenses.

Beto supports a health plan like Medicare for America as a means to ensure every single American gets the care they need to live to their full potential - including infants, children and adults with chronic illness and disabilities. Integral to these efforts is the commitment to fostering inclusion, self-determination, and home and community-based care. Therefore, Beto's health care plan would expand what is covered under Medicare to include critical long term services and supports (LTSS) and direct service providers. It would also ensure access to home- and community-based services. Health care services and supports must meet the needs of those living with pre-existing conditions, chronic illness, and disability. As such, Beto will work to ensure that Medicare for America coverage include additional health care services and parity for mental health care, reproductive health care, prescription drugs, and dental and vision care.

Medical costs and rising drug prices are a paramount concern for most Americans, particularly those with disabilities and chronic illness. Premiums would be set based on income, with free or subsidized care for low and middle-income Americans, eliminating deductibles for all families, and limiting out-of-pocket costs - including the cost of prescription drugs.

Beto is committed to health care as a human right and is fully aware of how this issue disproportionately impacts marginalized populations and those who have been historically excluded from policy discussions on health care. Beto will continue working with and actively including people with disabilities, stakeholders, lawmakers, disability advocacy organizations, the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), and others to ensure that health care is truly comprehensive and meets the needs and rights of people with disabilities.

Sestak: Healthcare is a deeply personal issue for me. My daughter was first diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 4, but the quality care that the American people provided my family through the military gave her a chance to beat the disease. When Alex's cancer came back last year, more than a decade later, we were fortunate to have the same medical heroes who had saved her once, save her again — including a doctor who came out of retirement to perform the intricate brain surgery. I'm running for President so that one day soon all Americans will be able to feel the same sense of gratitude and good fortune my family feels when we think of my daughter's care and treatment. We must finally make healthcare a right, not a privilege.

To this end, I support the immediate shoring up of the Affordable Care Act by, among other fixes, creating a public health option among a basket of private options which will demonstrate that government insurance can provide quality care at lower costs than private insurers that have greater administrative costs and are based upon a profit incentive. This approach will lead to people switching from private health insurance to the public option as a choice, a transition that would eventually lead us to the most cost-effective long-term health strategy for our nation: a single-payer system. I am in favor of this considered transition of choice rather than the quick dissolution of private health insurance because — as my family knows all too well — health treatments are often long processes, and it would be reckless, even dangerous, to impose upon everyone a sudden change to a new medical system, particularly as 255 million Americans have some form of private insurance today. Ultimately I favor a universal healthcare system modeled after the Veterans Health Administration — a national healthcare system for 9 million veterans — which authorities including the New England Journal of Medicine and the RAND Corporation have found actually provides better or equal healthcare outcomes compared to other providers.

In the short-term, I will take action to increase support for long-term at-home care, including addressing the shortage of home health workers, and I will work to address the general shortage of doctors and nurses as well. I also will seek to fix our broken mental health system, beginning with fully enforcing the Mental Health Parity Act and key provisions of the ACA dealing with mental health. There are 43 million Americans suffering from mental illness, but only 43% of them are receiving treatment. Among other mental health solutions, we need to incentivize more psychiatrists to accept Medicare and Medicaid (and even private insurance, which they often don't accept), rather than just accepting cash. My healthcare plan also includes allowing Medicare to bargain directly with pharmaceutical companies for the best drug prices, and permitting re-importation of less expensive drugs from Canada, while stopping big drug companies from "paying-for-the-delay" of cheaper generic drugs (a practice in which drug companies pay generic drug manufacturers to not take their generic replacements of name-brand drugs to market; it costs us \$3.5 billion annually). Additionally, I will increase funding for the National Institutes of Health to both address diseases that cause disabilities, and address quality of life issues for people with disabilities, such as pain management and prosthetics.

The United States of America is the richest, most powerful country in the world. We can afford to make healthcare a right, not a privilege, for all Americans, and we can afford to support people with disabilities and help them lead lives of dignity and fulfillment. As President, I will work every day to make that a reality.

Williamson: I am acutely aware of the needs of the disabled, the special gifts of the disabled, and our responsibility as a society to be there for them.

Health care, including treatment for Mental health, is a right and should not be a privilege reserved for a few. I favor a robust Universal health care system which ensures every person has access to affordable, high quality, portable health care. Mental health care should be treated on par with Physical health care.

I would ensure universal health care for all by making Medicare available to people of all ages on the health exchanges. I would protect people with preexisting conditions. I would oppose limits on access to prescription drugs and mental health counseling. I would work to reduce the cost of medicine.

Those who directly work for people with disabilities as direct support professionals have suffered from low wages, lackluster benefits and stigmatization, with an average national wage of approximately \$11.00 per hour. Direct support professionals are critical to providing care, support and a reasonable quality of life for those with disabilities with whom they work. I would raise the minimum wage to a livable wage, starting at \$15.00 per hour.

The current administration has proposed tens of millions of dollars of cuts to federal programs that support those with disabilities. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/17/opinion/disability-budget-cuts-trump.html>. This is unconscionable. A Williamson administration will propose and support increasing federal funding assistance for disability resources.

We are all God's children. Let's put our policies and programs in alignment with that spiritual truth.

Yang: I support a Medicare for All system that would provide coverage for all Americans who want it, with the majority of costs covered by the system. This coverage would include mental health services, and my administration would also invest in incentives to increase the number of mental health professionals, especially in rural areas.

I'd also invest in early intervention for physical disabilities, as well as increase coverage for medicine, treatment, and devices.