Candidate Name *(as it appears on the ballot)*: Ian C. Calderon

Office Seeking: State Assembly

District *(Senate and Assembly)*: 57

Hometown: Whittier

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1. In which ways have you supported the disability community in the past, and how do you plan to continue your support in the future?  
   Answer: I’ve supported the disability community by voting for legislation that creates greater access to services for people with disabilities- legislation such as SB 468, which allowed for self-determination and gave participants in the program the right to exercise choice in determining services and providers that work for them; SB 1160 which increased access to employment opportunities by adjusting the job-coach to consumer ratio, and AB 1041, which implemented an Employment First Policy statewide which focused on helping people with disabilities obtain jobs throughout the community.  
   I will continue to support legislation that increases opportunities for people with disabilities to thrive and be active members in their community.

2. Do you support the right of a person with a disability to live independently in the community? If so, what would your approach be to ensure people can transition from nursing homes to living on their own?  
   Answer: I support the right of a person with a disability to live independently in the community- it is a right that should be enjoyed by all California residents. My approach to ensuring that people can transition from nursing homes to living on their own is to improve access to In Home Supportive Services, as it is a key component of
ensuring that people can lead independent lives. We must fully fund In Home Supportive Services to ensure that people with disabilities can count on safe, reliable, and quality assistance with everyday tasks.

3. How will you support students with disabilities to receive an equitable, quality education if you are elected?
Answer: Students with disabilities have the right to be educated with their peers. With growing class sizes, higher adult to child ratios, and dwindling financial resources, California must ensure that students with disabilities do not fall behind their peers. I will continue to support the Early Start Program, which ensures that early intervention services are available to infants and toddlers with disabilities with minimal costs to families. I will also continue to support fully funding Special Education programs, which provide valuable learning opportunities and the assistive technology needed by students with disabilities.

4. How would you propose to build the capacity of the In Home Supportive Services program to sustain opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities to live independently in their communities.
Answer: Seniors and people with disabilities rely heavily on In Home Supportive Services as a way to live independently in their communities, but the IHSS program does not have the capacity to care for the increased numbers of people needing services. I support increased funding for the IHSS program in order to hire additional in-home workers and retain those workers that are highly skilled and qualified. I also support increased training and screening for IHSS workers in order to protect consumers from fraud, abuse, and neglect. Without adequate and qualified staff, quality of care suffers and the ability for seniors and people with disabilities to live independently suffers.
5. What would you do to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to affordable and accessible housing?
Answer: Providing access to affordable and accessible housing is a necessary component to ensuring that people with disabilities can live independently. I will continue to support the Community Placement Plan fund that is operated by the Department of Developmental Services, which allows for regional centers to request funds in order to purchase property to create and maintain affordable housing for regional center consumers. I would also support legislation that seeks to shift state funds spent on state run facilities to a fund dedicated to independent housing costs for people with disabilities, such as SB 1178 (Correa).

6. What will you do to ensure that people with disabilities are part of the planning and oversight systems for upgrading public transportation systems in California?
Answer: Public transportation is a key component when people with disabilities participate in the community. I will continue to engage people with disabilities in conversations regarding California’s public transportation. In order to fully understand the needs of those with disabilities, we must ensure that they are part of the planning process. By inviting them to meetings and town hall forums focused on public transportation, people with disabilities can provide suggestions and feedback about how to improve public transit so it is easily accessed by all Californians.

7. What would you do to increase job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
Answer: I believe all Californians have a right to employment opportunities, and I’ve supported legislation that makes employment a priority for people with disabilities. I voted in support of AB 1041 which created the Employment First Policy statewide and requires that employment be considered first when developing an IPP/IFSP, and that opportunities for competitive employment be given the highest priority. I also supported SB 1160 with adjusted the job-coach
to consumer ratio from 1:3 to 1:2, which will increase access to employment opportunities and necessary job training and skills.

8. What would you do to protect the rights of people with disabilities to have access to elections and cast an independent and private vote?  
Answer: People with disabilities must have access to elections and should be able to cast an independent and private vote. Having a disability does not automatically preclude the right to vote. I will continue to support the right to vote for every citizen who displays an interest in voting. I will work to engage people with disabilities in political discussion and encourage them to voice their opinion in the voting booth.

9. What will you do to ensure that upcoming changes in healthcare delivery for people with disabilities will maintain the integrity and consistency of care on which they have relied?  
Answer: California must fully fund healthcare delivery programs in order to ensure that people with disabilities receive quality care. Hiring and retaining skilled workers and preventing high turnover is necessary to ensure the continuity of care for people with disabilities. I support legislation that focuses on increased collaboration between healthcare providers and consumers, ensures culturally competent care, and demands accountability for caregivers and healthcare providers that violate the law.

10. In your view, do you think CA is spending too much, too little or just the right amount of its resources to support people with disabilities? Please explain.  
Answer: California was hit hard by the economic recession and as a result, many programs saw their funding cut. However, California’s economy is on the rise, and while we must ensure that the State is financially prepared in the event of another economic disaster, it is also time that we begin to restore funding to programs. California must fully fund its regional centers, In Home Supportive Services, and
community care facilities in order to ensure that people with disabilities receive the best level of care.