We Want to Know
Questions for 2018 Wisconsin Candidates

Caregiver Tax Credit

In Wisconsin, nearly 580,000 family caregivers help seniors live independently at home by providing assistance with activities like bathing and dressing as well as complex medical/nursing tasks such as administering medication and wound care. These unpaid services have a value of $7.0 billion and help keep loved ones out of more costly inpatient and long-term care settings. Family caregivers often provide this care with little or no support or training and are frequently on call 24/7 while holding down full-time jobs.

Q: Would you support providing a state income tax credit to family caregivers who use their own money to care for an older parent, spouse or other family member?

CARE Act

There are over 40 million Americans and approximately 578,000 Wisconsinites who act as caregivers in their daily lives. Now more than ever, caregivers find themselves performing medical or nursing tasks for those in their care. These tasks can be extraordinarily complex and can include anything from administering multiple medications to managing highly exacting diets, giving injections, and operating specialized medical equipment. Unfortunately many caregivers report not being provided sufficient education to perform these tasks. In some situations having access to this information is a matter of life or death. Caregivers need better information, education, and training to support the critical work they are doing.

Q: What will you do to provide more resources and training for family caregivers in Wisconsin? Would you support laws (or regulations) that call for hospitals to recognize and educate family caregivers when their loved ones are hospitalized?
Healthcare Workforce

Many aging Wisconsinites rely on paid caregivers to help them with their daily activities. These services are essential for many older adults in order to maintain their quality of life and to keep them in their homes and communities. Currently, there is a significant shortage in Wisconsin's healthcare workforce, and the growing demand for personal care services is likely to exacerbate this shortage.

Q: Direct care workers provide an invaluable service to help thousands of Wisconsinites to age in their homes and communities, but these workers are in short supply. What steps will you take to help attract and retain quality direct care workers?

Work and Save

Most Americans – and most Wisconsinites - aren’t saving enough for retirement. The average working-age household has only $3,000 in retirement savings, while near retirement households have only $12,000. We know that employees are 15 times more likely to save by merely having a workplace retirement account with access to payroll deduction. However, nearly 1 million residents in our state don’t have a way to save for retirement at work. We need to encourage more private savings so people can live independently in retirement.

Q: Nearly 1 million residents in our state don’t have a way to save for retirement at work. Knowing that employees are 15 times more likely to save merely by having access to payroll deduction, what can you commit to do to reverse the trend of under saving for retirement, above and beyond education efforts?