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Q1

Candidate name

Ashley Ehasz

Q2

Office running for (governor, PA House, PA Senate)

U.S. House of Representatives

Q3

District

PA-01

Q4

Party affiliation

Democratic Party

Q5

How have you or someone close to you benefited from nonprofit services?*Nonprofits include groups like food banks, Habitat for Humanity, YMCAs, religious institutions, museums, libraries, childcare centers.

As a commander in the Army, I often would spend hours working with my soldiers - men and women - assisting them with accessing medical care and other social services on and off base. Even after my service, former soldiers of mine would continue to reach out to me and sought help for navigating both Veterans Administration care as well as seeking assistance from organizations including the Wounded Warriors Project. Personally, I was deeply grateful for the medical services provided by my local Planned Parenthood when I was in between coverage of my Tricare and VA benefits. Without these nonprofit partners, hundreds of thousands of veterans around the country would go without vital physical and emotional care as they transition back to civilian life.

Q6

Nonprofits not only provide mandated services on behalf of state and federal government, but they positively contribute to the Commonwealth (providing 15% or 807,000 jobs), and by bringing in revenue from outside the state. What policies do you propose to promote continued job growth for nonprofit employers so they can continue addressing community needs?

I support a variety of measures to promote job growth in the nonprofit sector. In the healthcare and social services sectors, I support the establishment and enforcement of safe-staffing levels, particularly for nurses and hospital workers, which will not only help current employee retention but also grow the workforce. I believe that we should expand access and utilization of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, and ensure that those who choose to work in the nonprofit sector, and are providing critical services to our community, are not unduly burdened with college debt.

Q7

Would you support increases in reimbursement rates* for nonprofits providing contracted government health and human services? If not, please explain why.*Some rates have not been increased for over a decade.

I would whole-heartedly support increasing reimbursement rates for nonprofits providing these services. Nonprofits provide incredibly valuable services to the American people, including thousands of residents of PA-01. Seeing that these healthcare and social services are appropriately reimbursed is essential to ensuring that organizations can provide their staff with liveable wages and good benefits. In turn, this benefits our community as a whole: better wages increases economic opportunity, and enables nonprofits to attract top talent for their positions - leading to better outcomes for clients.

Q8

87% of nonprofits were negatively impacted by the pandemic - and continued to provide services to those most vulnerable. The state has yet to designate funding to support our work. Given the likelihood of a looming recession, what policies do you support to ensure financial support to these nonprofits so critical to your work?

In Congress I will advocate for targeted relief for those organizations that were on the front lines of the COVID crisis, and will be essential to continued support for those most vulnerable in our community. In addition to supporting the increase in reimbursement rates, I also support measures that promote giving to nonprofits, including tax deductions for charitable giving and the Combined Federal Campaign for federal employees nationwide. These programs provide incentives for the American people - who are incredibly charitable - to continue to support causes they care about.

Q9

Many nonprofits were created to address inequities in policy or programs.* If elected, how would you go about identifying and addressing these inequities?*Examples: Food banks exist to serve those who live in food deserts or have other limited access to food. Suicide hotlines exist to serve those who have no where else to turn when life no longer seems worth living.

As a working class candidate, I understand the challenges my constituents face in PA-01. Young people cannot afford to stay here due to a lack of economic opportunity and zero affordable housing. Older constituents are scared of the growing costs for food and healthcare, while they continue to live on fixed incomes. Parents are having to work multiple jobs, sacrificing valuable time for fun and family, just to stay ahead of the bills. Women are now terrified that they are merely a vote or two away from having their fundamental rights stripped from them.

We simply must do more to address growing inequality across the country and in PA-01, whether that be economic or bodily autonomy. I will fight to reduce costs for working-class families by fighting against price gouging in our energy industry, expanding the Affordable Care Act to include a public option for all Americans, and increase incentives for affordable housing construction. I will ardently defend access to abortion services nationwide and protect our fundamental right to privacy. A woman who cannot choose for herself when it is most appropriate to start a family is a woman who is unequal in her society.

I did not fight to protect my country overseas in the U.S. Army only to return home and be made a second class citizen. As I did as a commander overseas, my work as an elected official will be guided by the people I serve, and will be informed by direct continuous engagement with the residents of PA-01, whether they voted for me or not.

Q10

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities?

In Congress, I will fight to protect the right to choose, expand our social safety net by introducing a public option in healthcare, and advocate for funding that expands economic opportunities in PA-01. My priorities are driven by the concerns I hear from my constituents everyday, and I will continue to advocate for their needs in Congress.
