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Q1

Candidate name

Joe Webster

Q2

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

PA House

Q3

District

150

Q4

Party affiliation

Democrat

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.

Yes! Nonprofit organizations like YMCAs, museums and libraries were a key gateway for my family's ability to enjoy sports, adventure, and education.

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?

The key policy regarding Pennsylvania's nonprofit healthcare and special services communities is reimbursement rates. Our care providers deserve better; they have been held at poverty wages for decades. That is a result of the mantra of small government. "They" never say "keep wages low" out loud. But it's part of the plan. And we need to change that, to recognize the crucial roles our nonprofit caregivers, counselors, therapists, and advocates provide every day. But not just "recognize." To pay them what they are worth.

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.

Yes. This was my answer above. Yes.

Reimbursement rates should be increased in every category of care and government service. Our underpayment, over more than a decade, has hollowed out both our workforce and the foundations, the infrastructure of our nonprofit organizations.

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?

-- We could, we should have, we still can use Federal ARPA dollars to give nonprofit additional resources and to provide employees one-time bonuses for their "front line" roles and to help retain these employees.

-- Overall, Pennsylvania needs to increase funding (capacity) for the nonprofit sector supporting mandated services statewide, by county, etc. I'm familiar with examples in public health, in nursing homes, in care and support for our special needs facilities, for serious substance abuse programs...

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.

Not everything is about money... But the inequities in our society would be resolved a whole lot if we increased wages giving people an opportunity to house themselves, to feed their families without stress, with nutritious meals, to clothe their children... So living wages and reimbursement rates are important policy statements. We also need policies that protect seniors in their homes, that create both low income and middle-income housing that is close to good jobs. We need public transportation... We need to clean up the environmental disasters that are also found inequitably in our lower income and minority communities...

Q10

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

In my district the top three policy needs are:

- Education -- fully funding school districts that are operating below the full-funding formula.
- Stormwater infrastructure / flooding resilience projects
- Local economic renewal through wages and quality of life initiatives.

Nonprofit organizations are crucial to each of these goals!
