



# 2022 Pierce County Developmental Disability Online Legislative Forum Speakers

## Melissa Hornbeck; 29th Legislative District



Melissa is a homecare aide who currently lives in Tacoma. She spends most of her time providing care for her mother and her partner. In her free time, you can find her advocating to fix the wrongs she finds in her community. She is also a leader in her union: SEIU 775. She enjoys shooting photography and caring for her fur babies. She is also an avid collector of cat ears. Newly engaged, she is looking forward to her upcoming wedding.

**Priority:** Increase housing options

## Scott Jenkins; 28th Legislative District



Scott has a huge personality and a positive outlook on life. Now in his 50's, he's had to overcome a lot to enjoy the life he leads as an independent man. He enjoys living on his own in University Place. He really enjoys hanging out with his good friends and working at the YMCA.

**Priority:** Increase housing programs for the IDD community

## Josie Schindler; 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Josie is a single mom of 2 who lives in Lakewood. She loves working at the Climate Change Arena in Seattle because she is a huge Seahawks and Mariners fan! She enjoys spending time with her kids and boyfriend. She spends a lot of her free time as a self-advocate. She can often be seen at People First and SAIL meetings. She has built up a reputation as one who is not afraid to fight for what she believes in.

**Priority:** Increase housing options and housing programs for the IDD community.

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## Gwen Goodfellow ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Gwen, a recent college grad is a wife and mother who lives in Frederickson with her family. She has a full house which includes her husband, son, her son's girlfriend, her brand new granddaughter, her elderly mother, and two dogs!

"I know my situation isn't unique. I hate to say it, but sometimes it feels like I kind of almost chose poverty so that I could care for my family."

**Priority:** Increase housing options and require formal, permanent caseload forecasting for services for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

## Adrienne Stuart; 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Adrienne is a wife and mother who lives in North Tacoma with her family. A law school grad, she dedicated her life to advocacy. She has been doing policy and advocacy work for almost 20 years. She is respected not just for the huge impact she's made in her professional career in Advocacy but also for her skills as a mother raising two sons with disabilities. "I am fortunate to do work that I love to do"

**Priority:** Require formal, permanent caseload forecasting for services for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

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## Brian, Leslie, and Cooper Burhenn; 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

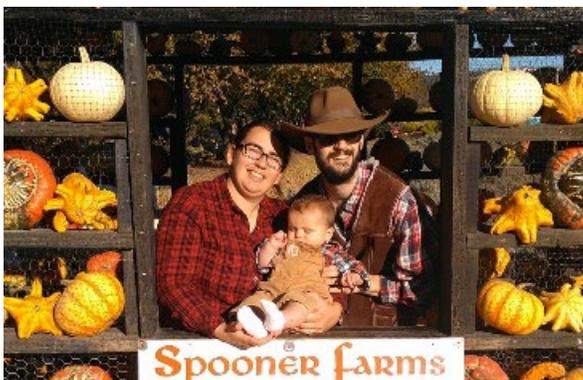


Brian and Leslie currently live in Puyallup with their son Cooper. Like many families, when they discovered their young child needed special supports, they had no idea where to turn for help. Determined to seek out the supports they needed, this husband and wife got busy. They connected with professionals and groups online where they learned about Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT). After receiving amazing supports while in the program they decided to become advocates to share their story with

others to make sure all families get the supports they need.

**Priority:** Require formal, permanent caseload forecasting for services for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

## Johnathan King; 31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Jon lives in Bonney Lake with his family. With the assistance of waiver services from DAA, he was able to access employment services through Goodwill in 2018. He still holds his position as an Assistant Coffee Roaster at Lamppost Coffee Roasting Company today. He loves God and his family. He has been married to his best friend and the love of his life for 6 years. He is the proud father to a wonderful 4-year-old son. When Jon is not working or spending time with his family he likes to go fishing with his father.

**Priority:** Fund recommendations of DSHS Employment and Day Rate Study to ensure access to services

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## Jacob Spurrell; 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Jacob currently receives job coach support services through the DDA. He is grateful for all the supports he receives from his job coach. He's decided to share his story in hopes that others can experience the same type of success he's found on the job.

**Priority:** Fund Employment and Day Rate Study to ensure access to services

## Elisia and Gabriel Dumas; 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Elisia Dumas is a 25-year-old female that self identifies as mixed race Mexican and Filipino. Elisia lives in the 25<sup>th</sup> district. She is successfully employed at Wendy's and loves spending time with her family and friends in her off time. Elisia enjoys watching re-runs The Fresh Prince of Bel Air and Friends.

**Priority:** Fund recommendations of DSHS Employment and Day Rate Study to ensure access to services by stabilizing the Community Inclusion and Employment provider networks and increasing funding for Community Outreach and Education.

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