

DRC DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER - NH

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Disability Unscripted: 2020 Candidates on Inclusion & Accessibility Transcript of Cory Booker: Concord, NH February 17, 2019

<https://drcnh.org/videos/booker-video-campaign-inclusion-and-accessibility/>

DRC-NH Staff: My question is that with one in five Americans living with a disability, I'm curious about what efforts you have made in your campaign and then perhaps in your administration, to reach out and employ people with disabilities.

Audience Member: Woop!

Corey Booker: That's a great, a great question. So from the time I was in City Hall to the time in my mayor's office, we made a effort to try to employ people with with disabilities, people with learning differences and engage them in our in our work and I've had them in my office before but even more than that and just employing by the way, we are big on diversity.

When I got to the United States Senate I have to tell you it was one of the least diverse places I had ever ever worked and so we talked to Schumer and said 'hey we want to have transparency' so you can ask people these questions but measuring it? How many people with disabilities work in the Senate? How many people who are Latino or women are on Senate staffs? We got Schumer to expose it all so now you can see measures of everything. But this is a great thing you're teaching me right now there's I don't think in that list of things we're listing out in staff is people with disabilities. So I'm gonna go back to Washington in a week from now and ask him to list that.

And the last thing I'm gonna say -

DRC-NH Staff: How about in your campaign staff?

CB: Well right now I don't know but I will find that out - thanks for putting that on my map.

And the last thing I'll say is, we are we we are had this delusion of sep... a dangerous delusion of separateness in this country. Anything that affects one directly affects us all indirectly, and the fact that we are a nation that's not prioritizing people with disabilities and making sure even in public education. You talk to school superintendents, talk to school principals. That the federal government's never even lived up to its commitment to fund special needs kids and and that short change is hurting everybody it's denying us of the genius and the beauty and the wonder of our special needs children. It's forcing local districts who are already strapped for cash and resources, to move other resources around. We have to begin to see each other, have a more courageous empathy for each other, and put our priorities, which is our budgets and our money where our values are.

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DRC-NH Staff: Thank you so much.

Candidate video fades out to informational slide

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