

# DRC DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER - NH

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## **Disability Unscripted: 2020 Candidates on Inclusion & Accessibility Transcript of Bill Weld: Concord, NH March 25, 2019**

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

**DRC-NH Staff:** So if you do decide to run, I'm curious about how you might reach out and engage those with disabilities in your campaign, because one in five Americans has a disability. How will you make sure your campaign stops are accessible to everyone who wants to come and how might you employ those with disabilities on your campaign, and if you do have an administration, how would you engage them in your administration?

**Bill Weld:** Well, you know, I applauded George Bush 41 for the Americans With Disabilities Act, was a strong supporter of that. He and I overlapped. I was Governor, he was President when that went through.

And I actually grew up with this. My mother on Long Island, where I was raised until the age of 10, worked for an organization called Skills Unlimited, which was to hire the handicapped. "It pays to hire the handicapped" was the motto of the organization. So I'm very much attuned to integrating those with disabilities into the economy of the United States. Not just wheelchair access but getting them jobs, and a lot of these folks, I more recently worked with an organization called Fedcap, same idea, getting job placements for people with disabilities. And they become capitalists with the first couple of paychecks. It's really wonderful. (laughs)

So I would have those experiences in mind in shaping my policies with regard to people with disabilities, living with disabilities.

**DRC-NH Staff:** Okay, great, thank you so much.

**Bill Well:** Okay.

*Candidate video fades out to informational slide*

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