

DRC DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER - NH

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Disability Unscripted: 2020 Candidates on Inclusion & Accessibility Transcript of Tom Steyer: Concord, NH October 28, 2019

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

DRC-NH Staff: Given that one in five Americans are living with a disability and that amounts to about 19% of likely voters, what have you done to employ people with disabilities in your campaign, make your campaign events accessible, and if elected, what will you do in your administration to continue to ensure employment for people with disabilities?

Tom Steyer: So obviously the point that you're making, Sarah, is a basic one. How do we ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully in society? Knowing that we'll have to act, we'll have to take - we can't be passive about it. We have to actively include, make steps so that they can do it. And so that's a question of, how do we make sure that at every event there is accessibility? That in hiring we make it possible for people to be included?

It's a broad category and let me say this too. I don't know how the one in five is measured. I don't know what it has to do specifically with mental health, but I think the question in the United States increasingly is, how do we include people, and care for them, and make it possible for them to reach their capabilities knowing that they may have issues from before, for whatever reason, that have to be actively addressed so that they can pursue that? I think that that is something which has got to be... I think it really comes into some combination of justice and health. And so it's a question of putting resources towards it as a society.

But it's also a question of a different attitude in terms of how we think about people being...having different capabilities and needing support in certain ways. So, from a standpoint of hiring, of course we take that into consideration and we do. California is very aggressive - I'm from California - in terms of making sure that people with disabilities have rights and are taken care of in terms of hiring, but also in terms of their access to everything. But I think this is going to turn out to be a...the point I'm trying to make to you is, I actually think this is going to turn out to be a broader question than the traditional definition of disabilities, and it's going to go to include many more Americans and it's going to be a much bigger question.

Candidate video fades out to informational slide

DRC-NH Staff Voice Over: Please contact us if you think your voting rights have been violated or visit our website at drcnh.org to learn more about your voting rights. To support our work protecting the rights of people with disabilities, visit our website at drcnh.org/donate.

Protection and Advocacy System for New Hampshire

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