

# DRC DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER - NH

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## **Disability Unscripted: 2020 Candidates on Inclusion & Accessibility** **Transcript of Bill de Blasio: Concord, NH, August 18, 2019** <https://drcnh.org/videos/bill-de-blasio-video-campaign-inclusion-and-accessibility/>

**DRC-NH Staff:** With one in five Americans experiencing a disability, and that's about 19% of likely voters, I'm curious about what efforts you have been taking to reach out and engage folks with disabilities in your campaign? And then how would you reach out and employ folks in your administration? And then lastly, what steps are you taking to make sure that all of your campaign stops are accessible?

**Bill de Blasio:** I want to pattern my work as president after what we've done in New York City. We have a very strong office for people with disabilities and we focus on the whole range of issues, on services, things that people need to lead a full life, access to transportation, access to affordable housing, and of course access to employment. One of the things we do is we focus aggressively on ensuring that there's opportunities in the public sector for employment, for folks with disabilities. We also push the private sector to do a lot more. There's a desperate need to make sure that those doors are open and government has a crucial role to play, but the federal government's absent. As president, I would make sure the federal government has a very forceful role in terms of employment in the federal government, but also pushing the private sector to really respect people's rights and create employment opportunities across the board for people with disabilities.

**Bill de Blasio:** I've also tried everything I've done as a candidate to include folks with disabilities in everything we're doing. I've met with disability activists, trying to make sure events are accessible, trying to make sure that these issues are front and center because it is one in five Americans and these need to be front and center issues in this campaign. I'm going to talk about it, but I'm going to talk about actually getting things done for people with disabilities and I want to do that for this whole country.

*Candidate video fades out to informational slide*

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