



ARRM

Section #1: About Yourself

Your Name: Jim Knobloch
District you are running in: 14R

Question #1: Please provide a short background about yourself.

Born and raised in Co. Cloud. Attended public
schools. Bachelors degree from St Johns in business,
MBA Harvard, MA Government Georgetown. Small
business owner for 30 years. Very active
community volunteer.

Question #2: What do you hope to accomplish by running for office? What will your main priorities be at the Capitol if you are elected?

I expect I will return as Chair of the
Ways and Means Committee, so working to
balance the states budget while making sure
its needs are met will be a top priority.

Question #3: What experience or connections, if any, do you have to the disability community?

long history of working with them on
various legislative initiatives. Just received
ILICIL award for my work for them this past
session. Active with Salvation Army
for many years.

Section #2: Our Workforce Crisis

Question #1: Our industry is facing a workforce crisis. There are simply not enough people to provide the direct care needed for people with disabilities to lead independent lives. Given that the overwhelming majority of funding for disability services comes from the government, and low wages are a driving force behind high rates of staff turnover, what ideas would you offer for helping to create a livable wage for our direct support professionals and caregivers?

I do think we should do the 5%

Best life increase. I supported this during the last budget but the Senate DFL + Governor refused to accept it.

Question #2: As technology continues to become a bigger part of everyone's lives, there are numerous products that can be used by individuals with disabilities which offer them increased independence, including things as simple as apps on cell phones and tablets. Some technology can supplement staff while others can substitute for staff. Would you support the use of public dollars to increase the availability and use of technology?

yes

Section #3: The Sustainability of our System

Question #1: Minnesota's Olmstead Plan includes a broad series of key activities our state must accomplish to ensure people with disabilities are living, learning, working and enjoying life in the most integrated setting appropriate for their needs. In 2015, a set of very ambitious goals and benchmarks were finalized and approved by the Minnesota courts to help ensure that the intent of the Olmstead Plan is realized. What is your role as a legislator to oversee and ensure that those goals are met?

*We need to provide the funding
and other legal ~~mechanisms~~ mechanisms to
comply with the court rulings unless they
are somehow changed.*

Question #2: Affordable housing is an issue for many people in Minnesota. A cornerstone of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan is the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to live as independently as they choose. As a legislator how would you strategically expand availability of affordable housing with accessibility features for Minnesotans with disabilities?

Question #3: Our industry has seen an influx of "unfunded mandates" - items that cost providers additional money without subsequent compensation, such as the increase in minimum wage, the Affordable Care Act, increased regulatory fees and the new Department of Labor Overtime Rule to name a few. When the government adds a new mandate what is its responsibility in supporting government funded businesses to pay for those mandates?

*I am opposed to most unfunded mandates
and realize we need to take them into
~~our~~ account in our funding.*