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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1** What is your name and Candidate Committee name?

**First and Last Name:** Jackie Grimes  
**Candidate Committee:** Elect Jackie Grimes  
**House/Senate District:** Representative for House District 46  
**Preferred Email:** jacqueline@electjackiegrimes.org

**Q2** What is the role of state government in healthcare issues in Wyoming? Describe your top three priorities for improving the healthcare delivery system in the state?

1. **Increase access to health insurance (expanding medicaid and bringing in competition for the insurance market)**
2. **Increase incentives for medical professionals to bring expertise into Wyoming as opposed to residents traveling to other states for medical care**
3. **Examining the role of non-compete clauses in employment contracts that limits medical experts ability to establish healthcare practices within Wyoming**

**Q3** Wyoming's tobacco tax rate of \$.60 per pack ranks 8th lowest in the nation. The national average is \$1.72 per pack. Given the state's declining revenue and Wyoming's low tobacco tax, is increasing the tobacco tax a subject you feel worthy of consideration in the coming biennium? If you do support the tax increase is it primarily based in an interest to generate state revenue or as a method to de-incentivize tobacco use, or both?

**Yes I support increasing the tobacco tax.**

Please Explain:

I believe that tobacco products are a significant health problem for not only the user but bystanders. People are motivated by their finances and an increase on tobacco tax is likely to decrease tobacco use. This is my primary motivation for taxing tobacco products.

**Q4** Physicians in Wyoming are required to attend continuing medical education (CME) to maintain their licensure in the State. Many physicians are now also taking part in maintenance of certification (MOC) programs to maintain board certification. MOC programs include more stringent continuing education requirements often at a higher cost, and generally involve high-stakes testing in order to maintain certifications. Wyoming physicians support continuing education requirements, but oppose mandates to maintain board certification. Do you support tying a physician's employment, reimbursement, or licensure to their participation in MOC activities?

**No, physician board certification should not be allowed to be tied to state licensure, employment, hospital privileging, and/or reimbursement.**

Please explain.:

I believe that in the process of creating highly trained individuals, we have built-in a regulatory system that is often cost-prohibitive and, at times, geographically prohibitive. I would support the exploration of an alternative path for board certification, particularly in rural communities/states in order to best meet the needs of our residents. I would further support the exploration of how the government can support continuing education efforts by physicians as part of an incentive package to attract highly qualified and specialized physicians.

**Q5** With 32 percent of Wyoming's population being covered by public payers (Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, Federal programs, etc), and current projected budget shortfalls, how would you prioritize reimbursement to physicians? Please explain.

I support period funding increases for Medicaid an Medicare reimbursement.

**Q6** WMS supports physician-led healthcare teams with each licensed provider practicing at the top of their scope. Do you support licensed healthcare professionals expanding their scope of practice or increasing the specific tasks they can perform, such as psychologists prescribing or optometrists performing eye surgery, through rule making or legislation without proof of adequate expanded education, training and curriculum changes?

**No, healthcare providers should only expand scope of practice when done through increased education, curriculum changes in training programs and stringent testing to determine proficiency.**

Please explain:

As a school psychologist, I firmly believe individuals have an ethical obligation to practice within their area of expertise. Without proper training, performing medical procedures can have life-or-death implications. It is inappropriate to expand roles of inadequately trained individuals in order to expand services. If the need is demonstrated for the expansion, the government needs to build in educational training support for individuals that includes rigorous academic standards, passing of a board exam, and final approval from a medical board. While Wyoming faces a significant shortfall in who can provide services, all efforts should be made to defer to and recruit experts within the medical community.

**Q7** The demand for mental health services in Wyoming is on the rise with involuntary hospitalizations increasing at alarming rates. Suicide also remains a concern with Wyoming ranking as the fourth-highest state in the nation. Between the increase in demand for state mental health services and recent overages in the state budget for Title 25 costs, what do you believe can be done to positively impact these trends?

I believe there are several things that can be done. To begin with, there needs to be an exploration at the role of the school in intervening with mental health concerns. The school is equipped with highly skilled and trained mental health staff that can provide the first intervention stop to establishing therapeutic help. In addition, many urban school districts have addressed lack of community resources and low SES of families by adopting mental health in the school models. These models include bringing in local community mental health to provide services on school grounds that is reimbursed via medicaid, insurance, and/or school funding. This can include additional family supports. Wraparound services is another approach to getting supports for the entire family. Lastly, I believe the formation of local coalition specifically designed to bring in suicide awareness and prevention resources is critical. After the substantial number of suicides during the 2014-2015 academic school year, Albany County established a local suicide task force that has annually raised \$30k+ towards prevention efforts. Lastly, I believe it is vital to focus on de-stigmatizing mental health concerns by recognizing them as the critical health concern they are. This should include efforts to require insurance companies to treat mental health concerns as an on-going health problem similar to the coverage and support a patient with diabetes would have.

**Q8** Would you support legislation to resolve the professional liability crisis in Wyoming? Specifically, would you support a cap on non-economic damages? Would you support other remedies such as adoption of the English rule, no-fault medical liability insurance or other such reforms?

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|--|-----------------|
| I support capping non-economic damages   | <b>Agree</b>    |
| I do not support capping non-economic damages  | <b>Disagree</b> |
| I support investigating all avenues to bringing meaningful liability reform to the state including capping non-economic damages. | <b>Agree</b>    |
| I support investigating alternative means to achieving liability reform but do not support capping non-economic damages.         | <b>Disagree</b> |
| I do not support any efforts to bring liability reform to the state as I do not see there is a current need or crisis.           | <b>Disagree</b> |

**Q9** WMS advocates for physicians to practice evidence-based medicine grounded in the latest research and safety standards. WMS opposes any legislation that attempts to unnecessarily insert government within the relationship between physicians and their patients as it hinders the ability for doctors to administer the most recent, evidence based, practices in medicine. Do you oppose legislation that unnecessarily inserts government between a physician and a patient?

**Yes, I oppose state legislation that inserts government between a physician and a patient.**

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Please explain:

I strongly believe that government should not be interfering with areas they are not experts in. As someone who works within public education, I know the impact government can have on influencing and mandating often times highly developmentally inappropriate requirements and the impact it has on students. Same is true within the medical community. While there may be individuals who have expertise within medicine, this is the exception and not the rule and as such governing bodies of medicine should provide guidance and not state or federal government.

**Q10** Do you support expanding Medicaid to provide state-based insurance to uninsured Wyomingites for 10% of the cost to the State of Wyoming?

**Yes,**  
Please  
explain:  
Without question I support the expansion of medicaid and believe this is essential to the health and well-being of our residents.

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**Q11** Please send me additional information about the following topics:

I would love to know more about what the Wyoming medical community is facing and what kind of support you would like to see from the state.

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**Q12** Does your candidate committee accept Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions?

Yes we do but only from groups that act in the best interest of people and not in the interest of corporations.

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