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**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 10:21:28 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 12:53:46 PM  
**Time Spent:** 02:32:17  
**IP Address:** 184.166.193.12

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

First and Last Name: **Bill Henderson**  
Candidate Committee: **n/a**  
House/Senate District: **House District 41**  
Preferred Email: **bill4wyo@gmail.com**

**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. **Provide for and protect public safety: Improve digital, broadband connectivity/Information Exchange/Telemedicine + provide public safety with ongoing access to affordable, quality care 24/7/365 across Wyoming**
2. **Promote quality care infrastructure with trained workforce: Work with providers to advance programs aimed to reolve shortage of nursing staff, clinical instructors and primary care physicians**
3. **Provide for those with special needs: Elderly (quality of life); Mental health/Title 25/Suicide prevention/Substance Abuse**

**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:

Priority is to induce less tobacco use, or other medical/health related funding only.

**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.**

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Please explain.:

Wyoming ranks 35th among states in fewer malpractice actions; Let's focus on identifying root cause of certification related issues with continuing education requirements that make sense for Wyoming.

**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.

Pay physicians first. Pressure on reducing reimbursements causes issues which may take time to resolve. Physicians cannot meet their ongoing expenses with delays and reduced payment from public payers. The focus of the physician is on meeting patient requirements -- not chasing public payer payments.

**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.**

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Please explain:

I don't want my eye to be the first one operated on by an optometrist whose proficiency as a provider of eye surgery has not been determined in expanding their scope of practice.

**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?

Make sure we have adequate funding for mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention training programs. Improving local community capabilities, capacity and access to timely treatment, combined with treating patients where possible before transfer to higher costing hospital, such as state facility. Reducing stigma associated with mental health services may encourage earlier benefit of treatment.

**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?

- I support capping non-economic damages **Agree**
- I do not support capping non-economic damages **Disagree**
- I support investigating all avenues to bringing meaningful liability reform to the state including capping non-economic damages. **Agree**
- I support investigating alternative means to achieving liability reform but do not support capping non-economic damages. **Disagree**
- 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. **Disagree**
- Please explain: More progress can be made on liability reform.

**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:  
Government has a role (e.g., state medical and nursing boards) in licensure, quality and safety standards. I believe each patient has a right to have an opportunity to consider pertinent information provided with timeliness, function and adequacy that helps them make an informed decision, without government inserted between a physician and a patient.

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

**No,**  
Please explain:  
The problem is access to healthcare not having insurance. Having insurance (Medicaid) does not guarantee a individual access to healthcare treatment. I'm open to having a conversation on other ways to provide affordable access to healthcare treatment.

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

Providing healthcare to rural unserved, or underserved areas of Wyoming; Healthcare information exchanges in Wyoming; Telehealth; Virtual health monitoring; and Ways to improve recruiting/retention of clinical instructors and clinical staff specialists.

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

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the survey. Appreciate confirmation you've received my inputs. Thank you.

I don't have a candidate committee. I would welcome support. Thank you, Bill

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