

#29

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, June 25, 2018 4:03:41 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, June 25, 2018 4:21:28 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:17:47  
**IP Address:** 192.135.57.232

---

Page 1

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

First and Last Name:	<b>Micheal Specht</b>
Candidate Committee:	<b>Specht4HD50</b>
House/Senate District:	<b>Wyoming House District 50</b>
Preferred Email:	<b>specht@nemont.net</b>

---

**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?

- Acceptance of Federal Medicaid expansion funds. This will not only provide healthcare to those most in need, it will help improve healthcare for everyone, especially in the rural areas of the state. A recent University of Montana study showed that when Montana accepted Medicaid expansion it created over 5000 new jobs in the state. With half the population of Montana that could be 2000-3000 new jobs in Wyoming, many of them specifically in health care fields.**
  - Improve access to preventative health programs for everyone. Dollars spent on prevention will be saved on treatment later. Improve access to mental health care programs, both in and out patient.**
  - . Improve access to affordable health insurance. Companies that are selling to large employers need to be required to provide the same coverage to individuals or families at comparable costs. I was denied coverage for me and my wife because of my “pre-existing condition” by several large insurers. When my wife was employed by a large employer, we were accepted into the group with no problem or impact on the insurer.**
-

**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?

**No, I do not support increasing the tobacco tax**

Please Explain:

I do not support raising the tobacco tax because I feel it is a regressive tax. I believe that it would impact the elderly and low income persons the most and do not believe that is where we should be going to fund our state government. I do believe that the state should do more to promote healthy lifestyles including funding tobacco cessation programs and preventative education programs.

**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 do believe that continuing medical education is necessary to maintain a license to practice in the state. I believe that obtaining Board certification should be a personal decision. I do not believe that it should be a requirement that is placed on an individual by the state or any other public entity, such as a public hospital board. Wyoming needs to quit making it harder for medical providers in the state to maintain certifications and to provide care, especially in the rural areas.

**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 believe that it is the legislature's responsibility to fully fund all programs that are in place to provide for the needs of the citizens. All persons that provide services need to be paid in full in a timely manner.

**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?

Please explain:

I am not sure what you are asking in this question. I believe that medical professionals should be able to perform any task that they have been trained to do and have shown they are capable of doing. I do not believe that a legislator is qualified to state what the requirements should be.

**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 that more funding and effort must be dedicated to mental health issues. The Suicide rate in Wyoming is not acceptable. More funding must be placed into local facilities where a person can get immediate help 24/7 with long term follow up care. More effort and resources needs to be placed in public education programs that make it OK to ask for help. Mental health should not be viewed differently than having cancer, heart decease, or a broken bone.

**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 investigating alternative means to achieving liability reform but do not support capping non-economic damages.

Please explain:

**Agree**

I generally do not believe in granting immunity from liability to any person or group. I do understand the impact that large malpractice suits have on liability insurance. I am willing to listen to proposals from medical providers, patient advocate groups, legal professionals, and patients to find a solution that addresses everyone's concerns.

**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.**

,  
Please  
explain:

I believe that there are 2 areas that no legislator or government official has any business. Those are between an individual and their chosen medical provider or their God. Any discussions or decisions on medical treatment or options should only be between the individual and provider, period.

**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:

Yes. Expanding Medicaid will improve health care for everyone. It will actually lower costs and save tax dollars as issues can be addressed sooner while they are more readily treated. It will create jobs. It will improve the quality of life for thousands of Wyoming residents.

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

Feel free to call for clarification on any question, 307 645-3383.

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

Yes, from Wyoming organizations.

---