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Q1 What is your name and Candidate Committee name?

First and Last Name: Paul Johnson
Candidate Committee: Friends of Paul Johnson
House/Senate District: House District 44
Preferred Email: paul@johnsonforwyoming.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. **limited state government interference between providers and patients**
2. **adequate reimbursement for Medicaid**
3. **Medicaid expansion with waiver program to tailor to 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?

Please Explain:

I am not in favor of increasing taxes. The tobacco tax appeals to me as a physician primarily on the basis of disincentivizing tobacco use.

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.

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.

Medicaid and CHIP are programs that require state funding. We must maintain adequate Medicaid reimbursement to physicians to maintain an adequate provider network in our rural state.

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.

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?

Medicaid expansion with a waiver tailored to Wyoming would increase access to mental health services for at risk populations. Increasing recruitment and retention efforts for mental health providers is essential. Efforts to deal with the opiod crisis in the state would also positively impact this issue.

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

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.

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

Q11 Please send me additional information about the following topics:

Respondent skipped this question

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

Yes it does!
