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Q1 What is your name and Candidate Committee name?

First and Last Name: Ryan Lindsey
Candidate Committee: Ryan for Wyoming
House/Senate District: House 12
Preferred Email: ryanforwyoming@yahoo.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. **Adequate funding for the Department of Health**
2. **Medicaid Expansion**
3. **Attracting Insurers 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?

Yes I support increasing the tobacco tax.

Please Explain:

First we need to clarify the budget, but I do support an increase on the tobacco tax to serve both purposes listed above.

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.:

Physicians went through the high stakes testing required in school and internship/residency. If a test is failed, it can be retaken for certification, but the license should not be at stake in that instance.

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.

The reimbursement schedule should be based on patient outcomes rather than survey scores. Survey scores are subjective, outcomes are objective. As an example: patient wants pain medication..gets script for PT and referral to an orthopedic surgeon, but the patient is unhappy and writes a scathing review, but goes to PT and meets with the surgeon...and the painful issue is resolved.

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?

Yes, healthcare providers should be able to expand the scope of their practice through rule making and legislative changes.

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Please explain:
I don't see how this is either/or, we can include both and we can write legislation to permit the expansion of the scope of practice once certain education requirements have been met.

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?

Increase the availability and use of resources in schools and professional settings to assist with mental health challenges. We also need to adequately fund the dept of health so that the state hospital can care for people in crisis and so forth. These problems don't begin with a suicide attempt, they end there.

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:
When we have as difficult a time attracting providers as we currently do, and the medical liability crisis that we currently have, its clear we have to take action. There always has to be accountability for mistakes, but the amount has to be re-evaluated as well.

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:

As an RN, this is one of the perspectives I bring to the legislature. Patients have enough to worry about when they are ill, the government interfering in their care should not be one of their anxieties.

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:

If you look at my campaign website www.fighting4us.org, you will see that medicaid expansion is one of my 5 key reasons for running.

Q11 Please send me additional information about the following topics:

Id like to hear and read more about the expansion of the scope of practice question. It intrigues me.

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

From professional organizations such as this one, yes.