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Q1 What is your name and Candidate Committee name?

First and Last Name: Sue Wilson
Candidate Committee: Wilson for Wyoming
House/Senate District: House District 7
Preferred Email: sue@wilsonwyominghouse7.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. **Increase access to primary care and mental health services in general.**
2. **Improve ability to recruit and retain physicians.**
3. **Increase or at least maintain Medicaid payment rates.**

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 have mixed feelings. Decrease in tobacco use would be good, although the revenue would probably not be significant (with decreased use). My main concern is tax avoidance with online sales, or reservation/military sales. I voted for the tax last year.

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?

Please explain.:

I think these issues should be left up to the Board of Medicine, not specified in statute. I believe the current requirement is for board certification for initial licensure through the interstate compact, and no requirement for Wyoming-specific license. That seems acceptable, but should be left up to the practitioners to decide.

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.

Adequate Medicaid reimbursement for physicians is key to ensuring access to care in Wyoming. We have a very high rate of Medicaid participation, and I will work to keep it that way.

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:

In my 6 years in the legislature I have voted against legislatively expanding the practice (or titles) of pharmacists, chiropractors, and optometrists, and will continue to do so.

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?

The Appropriations committee (on which I serve) returned some funding to MH & SA services, also specifically to suicide, in the 2018 session. Restructuring of the State Hospital will hopefully improve the flow and management of Title 25 and other MH patients. Need to continue programs to produce/recruit MH providers, also break down the silos between primary care MDs and MH providers to improve case management; maintain funding for community MH services.

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 support investigating all avenues to bringing meaningful liability reform to the state including capping non-economic damages.

Agree

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?

Please explain:

"Unnecessarily" is hard to define. In 2015 I successfully sponsored the POLST bill, working w/ MDs to improve end-of-life care through statute. I think that worked out well. I also voted for the 2018 health care provider sexual assault protections, which was unfortunately necessary (although it shouldn't have been). So I don't think I can make a blanket statement.

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

Please explain:

I was the sponsor of a Medicaid expansion bill in 2015 (HB 245). However, at this point the state does not have funds to cover the state's portion of the expansion cost. I will continue to work to find other ways to increase access to care for low-income people.

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.