

Our Revolution Maryland Questionnaire for U.S. Congressional Candidates, MD - District 6

All Our Revolution Maryland endorsements are based on the input from those that live in the community. An Our Revolution Maryland endorsement begins with a recommendation from one of the official Our Revolution Maryland local groups. All questions and candidate responses will be made available to the public.

Candidates: Please return your completed questionnaire to Susannah Lapping (susannahlapping@yahoo.com) no later than Friday, February 9, 2018.

1. Explain, based on life experiences and accomplishments, why you believe you are qualified to represent Maryland's 6th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

I am a first generation American, a pediatrician, a small business owner, an international bestselling novelist, and a mother of four.

Naturally, my top focus is on health care. For years, I have cared for my patients and watched them struggle to navigate an increasingly complex health care system. As a physician, I understand all too well that patient care does not fall into neat, formulaic columns on a spreadsheet. I am familiar with the challenges both through my work as a pediatrician and in my role as Business Manager of a neurosurgical practice.

My medical background makes me the only candidate to have this much needed first hand experience navigating an overly complex healthcare system. I'm the only candidate who has treated patients from the beginning to end of life. While they've been talking about health care, I've been delivering it.

I will use my qualifying experience to take on the insurance companies and offer effective ways to drive down soaring costs. To that end, I have created a 3 point plan: offer Medicare as a public option, bring eligibility down to 55 years old and offer a specially designed Medicare program to cover children. With 15 doctors in Congress and not a single one of them a woman, we are lacking diversity in representation. Health care is 16% of our country's GDP and reproductive health is a major concern.

Under the health care banner, I am also determined to take a strong stance against the NRA and in support of practical gun law reform since gun violence is a public health issue. This means closing loopholes that allow individuals to purchase without a background check,

keeping weapons out of the hands of known abusers, repealing the Dickey Amendment to allow for gun violence research at the respected NIH and CDC.

But I am not only a physician. I am also a first generation American as my family comes from Afghanistan, a country that is hugely important to the United States. None of the other candidates can understand the complexities of what will or won't work on the ground in Afghanistan as I can. I've written extensively on political corruption, addiction, poverty and gender inequality in the context of the Afghan war. I have 3 internationally bestselling novels to my name and 2 novels for children as well. My books have been translated into 12 languages. One of my books has been translated into Farsi and is available in Iran. I have traveled the world to speak about my books and related issues, such as at the Center for Peace in Bozen, Italy.

Every candidate in this race comes with an impressive resume of accomplishments, but with all of my accomplishments taken together, not a single other candidate has this diversity of qualifying experience.

2a. If you are elected, what ethical principles or values will guide your public service? Support your answer with examples of how such principles or values have guided you in the past.

I believe in doing the right thing. I'm only running for office because I believe my service will benefit those I would represent. I do not strive to be a politician or a lobbyist. My aspirations are for the people, not my own benefit. I've demonstrated that by signing a term limits pledge and by standing up for campaign financing reform with a public video.

I care about how policies impact individuals. That's why my books touch on issues such as poverty, gender inequality, domestic violence, political corruption, war, substance use disorders, and immigration.

I deeply believe in the empowerment of all children and families. That's why I became a pediatrician and chose to train and work in centers that provide care for a diverse patient population, including disadvantaged individuals. It's not easy work but it's important.

2b. Will you support and work to adopt the Democratic Party Unity Reform Commission recommendations?

YES

"Accessible, transparent, and inclusive." These are three words that ring loud and clear the

tune of our American Democracy, from pre-1776 to the present. Unfortunately, these words are not always the ones we would use to describe our presidential nomination process.

As the party that advocates for modernization of American politics, we need to make sure that we are constantly reforming our political system to be the most effective, honest, and modern. In order to continue building our party up, we need action from Democrats at all levels of society, across this entire nation. I support these recommendations because I believe that we need to have a nomination process that is supportive of the voice *of the people*: not the party administration, not the corporations, not the money...but *of the people*.

2c. Do you support small donor campaign match legislation for all Maryland elections?

YES

In the style of the Government by the People Act, I support small donor campaign match legislation for all Maryland elections. I believe that we need to bring the government back to the will of the people and not just the wealthy. Fair elections are the most sacred feature of our democracy, which is why we cannot allow big money to continue skewing Congress' representation of our economically diverse nation. While bold, the three main components of H.R. 20 demonstrate a thorough approach to campaign finance reform. Empower, amplify, and protect: these three words are at the core of the American rally, whether for a candidate or against corrupt forces like big donors.

I would advocate for public financing in all of Maryland's races throughout the state at all of its levels. We need to bring new candidates into the ring who have been previously squashed by big money. The time has come to stop politicians who overlook the real-life concerns of American citizens in order to continue being funnelled million of dollars to their re-election campaigns. It is unfortunate that candidates who challenge powerful corporations have to fight so much harder to stay in the ring. With this type of legislation, we can rightfully reclaim our elections and our democracy from big donors. I stand by this because I truly do want a government by the people, for the people.

CIVIL RIGHTS

3a. Will you support HR 2840 (Automatic Voter Registration)?

YES

Voter turnout in America is among the lowest of all Western democracies. Automatic voter registration has been proven to increase turnout in states like Oregon. It's hard enough for

many Americans to make it to the polls, and the efforts by many to complicate that process even more is quite frankly undemocratic. Americans in every corner of this nation feel excluded from the political process and this bill would bring them back into the fight. It will allow them to have a voice in the resistance against those who want to silence us.

This reform movement to our election process has been gaining traction, especially in 2016. Signing HR 2840 into law will have several benefits: it would (1) create a more diverse voting population, (2) make it easier for eligible voters to perform their civic duty, (3) would increase accuracy in the databases of government agencies that often have false addresses due to clerical errors in registration offices. This is a hefty issue, but Automatic Voter Registration is a necessary preliminary approach to solving the issues within our election system.

3b. Describe any other federal legislation and policy changes that you support in order to address the ongoing effects of slavery, racism, colonialism, and discrimination on people of color in America today.

Affirmative Action: It boils down to this. As long as systematic racism is a rampant phenomenon in our country, *we need Affirmative Action*. We need to dispel the myth that is reverse racism, and look at this issue at face value. The disadvantage that people of color face when applying to jobs and universities, is the remnants of the racist, slave-holding history of our nation. It is an ugly truth, and it is one that is still targeting our minority populations in every corner of this country, even where we don't think racism exists.

I would support any legislation that serves to **strengthen the effects of Affirmative Action** by way of making it harder for institutions (ie. universities, workplaces) to under-represent minority applicants.

School to Prison Pipeline: Too often, the first touch with the criminal justice system happens during school years. We can't treat our children like criminals and expect them to come out feeling empowered. We know that school suspensions only further remove children from the very place that could save them. We know that there is inequality and bias in punishments of behaviors. I would support expanding social services in schools so that we can take advantage of the opportunity to step in early and change the direction of life.

Mass Incarceration: Our criminal justice system has become a key player in the systemic racism that has hurt our minority populations. In order to properly and thoroughly challenge the ongoing effects of slavery, this is one complex issue that needs to be addressed directly and forcefully. Here are some parts of my approach:

- We need to close juvenile prisons. I am in support of the **Raise the Age Initiative**, which

would stop sixteen year-olds from being prosecuted in adult court. As the owner of a small business neurosurgery office, I understand the neuroscience behind impulse. The human brain is not fully developed until age 26, so we should not be treating these sixteen year-olds as adults. We should handle their punishments in diversion.

- **Law enforcement should not be the first contact for disciplinary measures in schools.** Instead, these matters should be handled by a counselor or social worker who can better train the student to handle any emotional crises he or she may be undergoing. It is shown that young people who interact with law enforcement before age 14 are exponentially more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system in the future because of that “gateway interaction.”

EDUCATION

4a. Will you support HR 1880 (College for All Act)?

YES

The cost of college has skyrocketed over the past few decades. Four in ten adults have student debt, and debt across the nation has reached an all time high of \$1.3 trillion. Student loan interest rates are also unfairly higher than the average interest rate. In this day and age, college degrees are vital if one wants to make a living. However, it’s harder and harder each year for students to attend college as the prices continue to rise. We need to make college more affordable and accessible so that students can contribute to our society as adults.

HR 1880 effectively tackles this issue with a comprehensive approach. We need to cut student loan interest rates in half, we need to offer minimum rate student loan refinancing, we cannot allow the federal government to profit off of our students, and we have to alleviate the crippling debt that students across this country are facing.

4b. What other legislation or other policy changes do you support in order to make college and graduate school affordable for poor, working-class, and middle-class Americans and to alleviate the crushing loan debt that many students and alumni are facing?

We all know that all school districts are not created equally and vouchers do not go nearly far enough in solving the problem. Our teachers should not have to dig into their own pockets to provide basic school supplies for their students. Schools need to be equipped to handle the needs of students affected by: poverty, lack of social and/or family support, mental health issues, economic stress, and bullying - right now we are not seeing this.

1. I support HR 1127, the **Student Loan Fairness Act**, which would place a cap on student loan interest rates, limit monthly loan payments in accordance with one's income, as well as institute a loan forgiveness program. Instead of coming out of college already in the financial hole, this piece of legislation ensures that secondary education does not come at the cost of copious amounts of debt.
2. H.R. 3026: **Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act**: Those who dedicate their lives to public service (teachers, law enforcement, public health workers) would rightfully have their student loans forgiven the longer they work in the public service sector.
3. H.R. 3572: **Making College More Affordable Act**: This bill posits many common sense solutions to the rising debt crisis young adults across the country are facing. Notably, this bill would eliminate interest on student loans all together, allow for everyone who currently holds student loans to refinance under the new plan, and lower the required monthly payment on student loans. There should be as few barriers to pursue a college education as possible and this plan helps mitigate many of the existing challenges recent graduates face.
4. H.R. 2366: **Discharge Student Loans in Bankruptcy Act of 2017**: In introducing this bill, Rep. Delaney affirmed his commitment to those who have fallen upon tough financial times. If one is so financially stricken that they have to file for bankruptcy, it is wholly unjust to expect them to pay back student loans on top of their existing financial troubles. I would certainly champion this piece of legislation upon my arrival to Congress.

HEALTH CARE

5a. Do you support a single-payer universal health care system?

YES

I am in support of single payer and I believe we can get there in the very near future. I've seen firsthand that insurance companies obstruct patient care. In our medical office, we spend far too much time on the phone with insurance representatives who read from a policy booklet and insist that clinically indicated treatment will not be covered. A colleague of mine spends almost half of her workday, everyday, dealing with these companies. It's simply outrageous. The insurance companies make money by feeding off premiums and blocking patient care. They are beholden to their shareholders and are only growing in power because of mergers like Aetna-CVS. It is my belief that they will soon be "too big to fail," just as the banks were.

How do we get to single payer?

I advocate for an approach to getting there which involves lowering the eligibility of Medicare to 55 years old, providing Medicare for kids, and making Medicare a public option. I see this as being a stepwise progression with the clear and necessary goal of getting to single payer. I am worried that if we try to roll out universal coverage in one fell swoop immediately, that there will not be enough support and that any hiccups would be condemning the idea of single payer to failure.

5b. Will you support HR 676 (Medicare for All)?

YES

As I mentioned, I believe we should first lower the medicare eligibility to 55 and all children so that we can work towards Medicare for all. However, I will still vote for HR 676 as our current healthcare system simply is not working. Many doctors can only take so many Medicaid and Medicare patients as they only earn so much from it; Medicaid pays even less than Medicare for the same service. With regards to the ACA, it has made great strides in expanding access to healthcare, however has not done enough to bring down the costs. By making Medicare a public option, hopefully we can avoid instances where a doctor will have to turn away a patient because they have already taken in too many Medicare/Medicaid patients.

5c. What legislation will you support or introduce to prevent and treat opioid abuse, as well as punish irresponsible pharmaceutical purveyors of opioid and other addictive painkillers?

The opioid crisis has had permanent effects on me, through my work as a physician. I have seen newborns come into this world addicted to opioids, with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. This issue has become personal to me, and because of my work, I understand that we need to address this crisis more directly than our current Congress is willing to do.

My plan to fight the opioid crisis will be to initially expand access to outpatient providers and telemedicine providers to fill in gaps, negotiate prices on narcan and buprenorphine, and provide support services to navigate the ER to outpatient therapy connection. Policies that ensure access to long term Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is KEY for opioid addiction -- not just short term inpatient rehab stay, which is currently where most of the money is allocated.

I would fight to protect and enforce the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

(MHPAEA). I would also work to empower state elected officials to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for their role in making painkillers so accessible to users. Current Attorney General Brian Frosh is a stark example of that as he is currently taking on that fight in the state of Maryland.

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is newly fully running and it is a system that has been much needed for some time. By allowing the sharing of information to be shared across networks and insurance companies, providers will be able to prevent the mistake of overprescribing a medication that a user may have obtained from a provider elsewhere. At the same time, this program can also be expanded and enforced in other states and I would work to advocate for this in Congress as I know first-hand the prime importance of its existence.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

6. Will you support HR 771 (Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance [EACH Woman] Act)?

YES

I support this bill because it makes access to abortion universal and permanently thwarts off legislative interference on that access. It is essential that we restore access to women who rely on government insurance plans or government providers. The Hyde Amendment was a direct attack on women's rights and it's time that we take women's bodies out of Congress and into their private lives.

More specifically I support this bill because:

- Abortion bans impose hefty burdens on women who wish to seek abortions. Often they need to carry the pregnancy to term or suffer outrageous bills paid from their own pocket. HR 771 would alleviate women of those burdens.
- HR 771 eliminates the fine print on the kinds of pregnancy care women can receive. I believe that if women are receiving government assistance with health insurance, women should be supported throughout the pregnancy process, without qualification.

Discuss your stance on reproductive rights, including access to contraceptives and abortion services.

I am pro-choice, which I always remind people does not mean anti-life. I believe in a woman's right to choose what is best for her personal circumstance. I would advocate for restricting elective abortions in the 3rd trimester except in cases where the mother's life is at risk or if the fetus has been identified as having conditions incompatible with life. I respect the work of Dr.

Jen Gunter, an advocate for reproductive rights. The statistics should reassure those who are fearful that large numbers of third trimester abortions are being performed.

In 2012, 0.17% of the abortions performed were done after 21 weeks across the United States (only permitted in 7 states + DC). The vast majority of those were performed under 24 weeks and most were done because of fetal anomalies, some were cases of rape or incest. It's a total number of 600 abortions per year.

I do not believe in limiting access based on age. I support Planned Parenthood. I advocate for the right thing to do, which would be to repeal the Hyde Amendment. It would be a tough move, and we'd be up for a fight, but I'm not one to budge. The future is female, and I'm running for Congress to advocate for these rights.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

7. Will you support HR 3227 (Justice is Not For Sale Act)?

YES

For the past 30 years or so, America has engaged in the privatization of prisons. While a public prison is a naturally non-profit, government-run organization, a private prison is run by a large corporation, with one goal in mind: profiting from this gross misconduct of our criminal justice system. The amount of money earned by a private prison is directly proportional to how many prisoners it can obtain in its facility. In other words, the higher their criminal body count, the more profit they make. And this steady supply of inmates to every private prison urges us to prioritize private capital and private corporations over real, *raw* justice. Ultimately, we are accepting this broken system that exploits Americans and our justice system for monetary gain. On this very basis, for the reform of this boundless capitalism overpowering our American value of "...justice for all," I will support the Justice Not For Sale Act, HR 3227. Under this bill, we will no longer view our prisoners as merely a means to making profit rather than human beings by abolishing privatized prisons in three years time.

We will no longer subject these Americans to inhumane living conditions and cruel treatment. Instead, this bill will ensure that those who are fully ready to be reintegrated into American society will be given the right to do so through the reinstatement of parole for federal prisoners. As stated in the bill, a prisoner who has served their term for more than a year is eligible for release on parole after serving one-third of their sentencing term. This process ensures that prisoners have the opportunity to reestablish their standing in society, and turn the focus then to education and job training for those eligible to re-enter our society as rehabilitated *American citizens*, not as profit machines.

What other federal legislation do you support in order to make the American criminal justice system fairer, less costly, and more effective at rehabilitation?

1. I support the **Safer Communities Act of 2017 (HR 4142)** because it pinpoints the importance of improving America's mental health infrastructures and resources to better understand violence starting in schools. The school-based mental health programs and the investment on gun violence research are two aspects that are integral to reforming our criminal justice system. This is because they target young minds and continue to expand our purview of using research to understand the psyche.
2. I stand by the **Expungement Act of 2017 (HR 3578)** because erasing an individual's records related to a nonviolent criminal offense will allow a smoother reintegration into the professional world and create an equal opportunity for former nonviolent criminals to become economically self-sufficient. Nonviolent ex-prisoners who are of good character should not be penalized by the stigma that surrounds former prisoners in our society.
3. I support the **REDEEM Act (HR 1906)** because not only does it mention the opportunity of sealing criminal records to nonviolent offenders, but it particularly champions the abolishment of solitary confinement for juvenile offenders. As both a pediatrician and a mother, I truly believe that young minds subjected to our criminal justice system can be rehabilitated. This bill will work towards ensuring that minors in the system are not tortured or overlooked, but effectively rehabilitated.
4. In order to combat the rising costs of over-incarceration, I support the cost-effective strategies of the **SAFE Justice Act (HR 4261)**, which would focus our attention on violent and career offenders, while diverting low-level, nonviolent offenders to rehabilitative programs. In turn, the savings provided under the bill would then be redirected towards investment in programs that reduce recidivism rates and prioritize de-escalation training.
5. Mandatory minimums standardize a criminal justice system that prides itself on due process, a system of individualized and fair punishment, and we cannot let this misconduct of justice continue. Under the **Justice Safety Valve Act of 2017 (H.R.2435)**, judges would have the power to sentence federal offenders below the mandatory minimum sentence if the minimum term does not accomplish the goals of intended punishment.

6. With rehabilitation comes the hope that convicted offenders will not reoffend and backpedal on their progress. I support the **Prison Reform and Redemption Act (HR 3356)** because it emphasizes the need for recidivism risk reductions through resources such as recidivism reduction programming and the Federal Post Conviction Risk Assessment Tool evaluation.

ENVIRONMENT

8. **What federal legislation or other policy changes do you support in order (A) to reduce America's carbon footprint and (B) to protect and maintain America's remaining wilderness, parks, open spaces, and wetlands and (C) recognize, ameliorate, and reduce the sources of Climate Change?**

No matter how far the President and Republican Party sink their heads into the sand, we are witnessing and suffering the consequences of extreme weather, severe droughts, and rising seas. The anthropogenic degradation of the oceans has caused untold devastation to our world's food supply, the global economy, to our lives and our planet. We have to admit to the reality of climate change and take a leading role in shaping efforts and policies to fight climate change.

In Congress, I would join the effort to recommit ourselves to the UN Paris Climate Agreement, as well as guide all committed members toward clean energy, and better, cleaner tomorrow for our children. We have to stop protecting the outdated and subpar 20th century technology, and invest in alternative clean energy technology. We need to revisit the established science, focus on the ethical implications, and review all the current prevailing laws. The scale of the damage is extensive and the efforts to mitigate the environmental degradation and restore healthy ecosystems and food chains are far-reaching. It is vital, at this very moment, that we begin to meaningfully invest in science and make evidence-based decisions that will give us future generations a fighting chance.

I would fully support legislation to reduce our carbon footprint through a Cap & Trade system for big industries. This will be more effective for a carbon tax (in regard to our industry) because it will set a limit on carbon emissions, and ideally will lower overall emissions overtime. I also will support a Carbon tax to help regulate emissions from transportation, heating, and cooling. Also, I will defend the Clean Power Plan, which established the "first ever national standard to limit carbon pollution from power plants."

Maryland set out to "Achieve a 25% reduction in Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions by 2020." It is important for each local, state, and national level to set these sort of goals and not

only achieve them, but surpass them. I would support and protect legislation that would ensure this.

I will not allow any changes to the Endangered Species Act, and will protect the National Monuments & Antiquities Act. I would also support funding for researching and developing new policy recommendations that will assist in restoration and remediation of environmental issues that directly impact us.

Demonizing the coal, oil, and natural gas industries does no good. We should work with these industries on reducing emissions and preserving natural habitats while minimizing effects on native populations.

The private sector can play a role in developing environmental policy, interweaving environmental and social responsibility into a triple bottom line with shareholder needs and profits. Corporate environmental responsibility serves as a platform for industry to take a role in reducing environmental unsafe practices, through corporate relations, technological development, packaging control, and product development.

In sum, I would only support and protect legislation and policy recommendations that would eventually push the US in the direction of energy independence.

9. Do you support or oppose TransCanada's proposed pipeline under the C&O Canal and Potomac River at Hancock, Maryland?

OPPOSE

All pipelines leak. It's just the nature of the pipelines themselves. Despite any business benefits that the gas and oil companies are trying to prove, it simply *does not matter* when you are jeopardizing the water supply of six million Americans, endangered and non endangered species, and our natural habitat. This pipeline would rely on gas produced by fracking. State lawmakers voted to ban fracking because it simply is an unsustainable, harmful practice. It would, as always, be just as unsustainable and harmful in this situation, as well.

If proponents are willing to threaten the cleanliness of drinking water in Maryland for the necessity of a connection between Pennsylvania gas producers and West Virginian manufacturers, the Maryland residents should at least benefit from this pipeline. *But they don't*. It is *only* a threat to their public health and public safety. We are here to serve the American people and ensure their safety. We are not here to support big business and threaten

our people.

We need a Congress that will move towards more environmentally sustainable practices, and I vow to join that charge. This pipeline is a direct threat to the American public.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

10a. In order to reduce wealth and income inequality and poverty - including unemployment, homelessness, and food insecurity –

(A) Do you support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour or above?

I support raising the federal minimum wage to a living wage of \$15 an hour because low wages are a prime factor for all socioeconomic inequality, from high child-poverty rates to high rates of taxpayer spending on assistance programs for low-income families. When the wage floor rises to a rate such as \$15/hr, we will not only stimulate the economy, we will ensure that the working American maintains a standard to their quality of life. While opponents argue that raising the minimum wage will create a large loss of jobs, I believe that there is no value in maintaining more jobs if the Americans who are working do not even earn enough to live comfortably.

(B) What additional steps do you believe the federal government should take to reduce income and wealth inequality?

The wealth gap is easily one of the most divisive forces in our nation, and it's high time that we fuel the fire towards evening out the playing field for all Americans. One way to do so is to **expand the earned income tax credit**, which would encourage low-income families to work by increasing the incentives. **The Earned Income Tax Credit Improvement and Simplification Act of 2017 (H.R.822)**, for example, targets improvements in the EITC to include childless workers, younger workers (anyone over 21, not 25), and married individuals living separately. I believe that the federal government should impose a higher tax on the most wealthy, while also expanding tax credits for the middle class. We need to (1) make corporations keep their jobs here (thusly, restricting them from avoiding US income tax,) (2) impose an estate tax that is higher for the wealthiest of the wealthy, (3) tax Wall Street speculators.

Medical debt is also one of the leading causes for bankruptcy for many Americans. Prices on medication are the most expensive in this country versus other nations. I believe the federal government can work to ensure that prices are dropped by pharmaceutical companies, that Americans are protected from monopolies being created within that industry, and that medicare is expanded to those that truly need it, while also incentivizing the acceptance of it by providers.

10b. Will you support HR 15 (Raise the Wage Act)?

ABSOLUTELY

Raising the minimum wage has been a long overdue responsibility that Congress has failed at delivering. Americans are facing rising food costs, massive medical debt, soaring interest rates, and ever-increasing healthcare costs. Current wage levels are simply not sustainable for anyone to live above the poverty line. It is the cause of heavily under resourced school districts where teachers are being outsourced from nearby states and local teachers are looking for teaching jobs elsewhere. Current wages are nowhere near meeting the cost of living and it has wreaked havoc on our overall debt crisis.

There is no question that HR 15 should be supported in its entirety.

10c. Will you support HR 1144 (Inclusive Prosperity Act) tax on Wall Street?

YES

This bill introduced by Rep. Ellison is a common sense solution to the growing income inequality in this country. This legislation imposes a miniscule financial transaction tax on stock, bond and derivative trades (at 0.5%, 0.1% and 0.005% respectively) that will be reinvested in middle class families and would raise an estimated \$185 billion over the next ten years according to the Tax Policy Center. Through this, we will be able to combat the rising costs of education, increasing rates of student loan debt, climate change and more. Furthermore, this tax will discourage high frequency trading which has been known to destabilize the market and make it more, unnecessarily volatile. Similar transaction taxes are in place and benefitting many countries around the world and have been championed by France and Germany in the European Union.

10d. Provide *specific* details of how you would attack the ongoing economic and social disparities which continue to impact women, including the gender pay gap, inadequate Social Security benefits particularly for elderly women, the lack of paid family leave in many cases, the lack of adequate child care, and discrimination in all of its forms against Women of Color.

We have gotten as far as we have on gender equality only because brave women paved the way. We can't let the momentum falter. We need equality and parity in society, without disclaimers. Legislation ensuring equal treatment of men and women is not just appropriate, it is absolutely essential. Here's what we need to do:

Gender pay gap: We need to revive legislation similar to the Paycheck Fairness Act. There needs to be procedural protections of the Equal Pay Act in place. President Trump is a legitimate threat to the progress that so many brave women have worked for over the last century and more. In order to protect women's financial security, we need to resort to legal protections. These protections need to (1) end pay secrecy, (2) strengthen enforcement of equal pay laws, and (3) require the EEOC to collect compensation data disaggregated by race and sex.

Inadequate Social Security benefits (particularly for elderly women): According to the Social Security Administration Fact Sheet, women represent about 56 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries ages 62 and older and approximately 66 percent of beneficiaries age 85 and older. Women have earned lower wages, worked less due to taking time off for their children, and have taken up far more responsibilities if widowed or divorced.

While there are helpful social security features such as the Progressive Benefit formula, inflation-protected benefits, and dependents' access to benefits, these can oftentimes be made inaccessible if a social security beneficiary is receiving some other form of cash assistance. I would fight to protect this as with age, comes health complications and other health challenges for elderly women. Even if all of the different types of benefits available were to be applied for elderly women, they may still be below the poverty level. This is especially true for elderly women of color. Therefore, I would fight to eliminate stringent limits placed on incomes and other sources of assets that elderly women may have. I would also fight to expand health care coverage and lower prescription drug costs, as these are contributing factors to elderly women living below the poverty line.

Lack of paid family leave: Additionally, in order to ensure the financial security of women, we need to propose paid family leave. The FAMILY Act was a step in the right direction; however, it only funded up to 12 weeks paid leave at partial salary through a payroll tax. That simply is insufficient. We need to offer legitimate paid family leave that does not put women in financially vulnerable places during and after pregnancy.

I also support the Healthy Families Act. The bottom line is that people get sick, and they should not worry about financial vulnerability when they have the flu. This Act allows workers to earn seven paid sick days, while also extending benefits to survivors of domestic violence.

Lack of adequate child care: As a pediatrician, I wholeheartedly stand behind efforts to ensure that all children are receiving a formative early education, which is crucial for both their social and cognitive development. However, working class families nationwide are suffering from a childcare market in which the cost of childcare is impossibly high and those working for the

system are severely underpaid. The Child Care for Working Families Act will work towards child care reform, as it offers subsidies based on a sliding-scale scheme, and through its cost plan, aim to provide affordable care to families as well as adequate salaries to its teachers. Ultimately, standardizing quality child care across all communities will promote educational equity across different communities and populations. Thus, investing in this child care plan will begin to reverse the wheel on the disparity between children based on their respective socioeconomic status.

Discrimination of all forms against Women of Color: Because of systemic discrimination against their gender and their race, Women of Color face higher disadvantages in finding success in the country that they call home. We need to ensure that legislation is passed that protects them in all ways possible from being discriminated against based on these characteristics. Legislation that protects most but not all demographics are *simply insufficient*: these laws, if they are claiming to protect our minorities, need to have protections that extend to every single person who is subject to our laws no matter what they look like, who they love, who they are -- the bottom line is, we need to be fighting this fight with full force. *Time's up.*

I will support proposals that encourage workers who experience workplace harassment to report it. There should be strong laws that create incentives for businesses and other groups to work toward prevention. This would include eliminating the tipped minimum wage, which would benefit many low-paid workers, many of whom are women. Tipping also makes it difficult for workers to report sexual harassment (ie. waitresses harassed by customers, etc).

CAMPAIGN FINANCE/CORPORATE INFLUENCE

11. Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to repeal the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*?

YES

Citizens United is, at best, dangerous to a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," as Abraham Lincoln called for during his Gettysburg Address. With Gorsuch on the bench, it's time to pull up our sleeves and resort to passing a Constitutional Amendment to overturn *Citizens United*. It is unconscionable to think that our Founding Fathers would support a Constitutional interpretation that abuses our political process, especially under the guise of First Amendment protections. My issues with *Citizens United* reside in the anonymity of Super PAC donors, the fact that it protects only the 1%, and that it blatantly attacks our founding idea of free and fair elections. Republicans already allow these wealthy corporations to dominate the American economy, so we must stop them from continuing to extend their control to our

legislature.

These are the direct measures I support in order to reclaim our elections from the corrupt corporations that are stealing our democracy one blank check at a time:

- A Constitutional Amendment that overturns *Citizens United*, overturns *Buckley v. Valeo*, and grants Congress and state legislatures the power to regulate campaign contributions. This model should be a revival of Senator Sanders' Democracy is for People Amendment.
- The complete eradication of Super PACs on the grounds that they are, at best, an abuse of power.
- Legislation that demands the *complete transparency* of campaign funding (by outlawing the anonymity of Super PAC donors).
- In the spirit of the Fair Elections Now Act, we need a campaign financing system that (1) is public and (2) amplifies small campaign contributions.

This fight is not one for the faint of heart or the undetermined. This takes a movement. *Count me in.*

12. To your knowledge, have any lobbyists, CEOs, or corporate lawyers contributed to your campaign? If so, please identify them and the steps you have taken to ensure that you will not vote on any matters in which they or any such donors have a financial interest.

These types of donors have not donated to this campaign and frankly, we're the type of campaign that they want to stay away from. It is because of financial interests in government that we are facing a healthcare crisis, massive incarceration due to the privatization of the prison system, abusive banking practices, and various forms of corruption. We're ready to challenge the corporations, and we can do it from the public square, small contribution by small contribution.

SEXISM/SEXUAL HARASSMENT

13. What federal legislation or policy changes do you support in order (A) to address the disadvantages that women face due to the ongoing effects of sexism and (B) to stop sexual harassment in the workplace? Include in your answer actions that Congress should take to protect staffers, employees and interns.

The workplace is not a space that should be gendered. It is about hiring the professional who is most qualified for any given position, and treating he or she with the same respect that any and all employees deserve. We need to attack this issue with legislation, and make discriminatory, sexist workplace practices (that happen far too often) *illegal*. This is what I have in mind:

- We need to revive legislation similar to the Paycheck Fairness Act. There needs to be **procedural protections of the Equal Pay Act in place**. President Trump is a legitimate threat to the progress that so many brave women have worked for over the last century and more. In order to protect women's financial security, we need to resort to legal protections. These protections need to (1) end pay secrecy, (2) strengthen enforcement of equal pay laws, and (3) require the EEOC to collect compensation data disaggregated by race and sex.
- Additionally, in order to ensure the financial security of women, we need to propose **paid family leave**. The FAMILY Act was a step in the right direction; however, it only funded up to 12 weeks paid leave at partial salary through a payroll tax. That simply is insufficient. We need to offer legitimate paid family leave that does not put women in financially vulnerable places during and after pregnancy.
- I also support the Healthy Families Act. The bottom line is that people get sick, and they should not worry about **financial vulnerability** when they have the flu. This Act allows workers to earn seven paid sick days. Importantly, it can also be used by **survivors of domestic violence**.
- Needless to say, I will oppose any bill, policy, or proposal that **limits access to reproductive health care**, including birth control and abortion. While it might not seem like it right away, reproductive health care does impact women's economic security.
- I will support proposals that encourage workers who experience workplace harassment to **report it**. There should be strong laws that create incentives for businesses and other groups to **work toward prevention**. This may include eliminating the tipped minimum wage. This would benefit many low-paid workers, many of whom are women; tipping also makes it difficult for workers to report sexual harassment (ie. waitresses harassed by customers, etc). In light of the #MeToo Movement, our reform on sexual harassment in professional environments is long overdue. I applaud the house resolution passed most recently, **H.R.4924 & H.Res.724 Congressional Accountability Act Reform Measures**, which specifically protects House employees from sexual harassment in the workplace and endows them with resources/methods to reporting and restraining these sorts of acts. We need to extend these protections and trainings to those who work in the offices of US Senators, as well. This needs to be a comprehensive and thorough approach that protects everyone.

HOMOPHOBIA

14. Describe or identify federal legislation that you would support in order to address the

discrimination faced by the LGBTQIA community.

In the spirit of the 21st Century and the essence of the word “equality,” our protections for the LGBTQIA community is long overdue. It is simply heinous that it in many states, housing discrimination against transgenders and firing on the basis of sexual orientation is still legal! We must act, and we must act, frankly, yesterday. Legislation such as Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and DOMA are dangerously harmful to the LGBTQIA community. As a pediatrician, I have seen firsthand the struggle of LGBTQIA youth in their most vulnerable places. *This issue is personal to me.* I cannot imagine treating my patients with any less dignity or respect because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I have developed a thorough approach to legislative action against LGBTQIA discrimination. This is what I support:

Combating Discrimination Against LGBTQIA Individuals

- I support the **Equality Act**. We need consistent and explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQIA people in employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service.
- I support the **Every Child Deserves a Family Act**. We must prohibit any public child welfare agency receiving federal financial assistance from discriminating against any potential foster or adoptive family on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.
- I support the **Do No Harm Act**. Our Constitution protects the freedom of religion, and I absolutely support that. But when discrimination against LGBTQIA individuals is guised as protecting religious freedom, that is *not* religious freedom. It is discrimination. We need legislation to bring the Religious Freedom Restoration Act back to its original intent.
- I support the **REPEAL HIV Act**. In an effort to update federal and state law to the current times, we need to issue a review of legislation that holds victims of HIV criminally liable.
- I support the **Customer Non-Discrimination Act**. We need to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQIA individuals in area of public accommodation. Additionally, we need to expand the list of public spaces included in the law to retail, banking services, transportation services, and healthcare providers.
- I support the **Fair and Equal Housing Act**. Again, it is blasphemous that Americans can be denied housing on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We need

to amend the Fair Housing Act to include protections for LGBTQIA individuals.

- I support legislation that **restricts banks and creditors** from denying LGBTQIA individuals mortgages, student loans, or other financial assistance.

LGBTQIA Support on an International Scale

- I support the **Global Respect Act**. We, as a nation, need to make our support of the LGBTQIA community strong and unwavering. It is time to restrict those who violate the human rights of LGBTQIA people from entering our country.
- In continuing the spirit of advocating for LGBTQIA rights on an international level, I support legislation that **incorporates LGBTQIA advocacy into the framework for US diplomacy**. As stated in the International Human Rights Defense Act, one solution that I would support is to create an advisor on LGBTQIA rights to the Secretary of State.

Protecting and Normalizing LGBTQIA Youth in School

- LGBTQIA students deserve to learn in sex education settings that are inclusive to their sexual experience. I would support any measure to **combat heteronormativity in sex education**.
- It is time to **eradicate heteronormativity in schools**. We need provisions that require schools to include codes of conduct in their handbook that address specifically discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

FOREIGN POLICY

15a. Identify changes to our foreign policy that you would support in Congress. Include in your thoughts on (A) America's recent and continuing military actions in the Middle East, (B) the number and size of American military bases in foreign countries, (C) international trade deals, (D) providing emergency humanitarian aid versus nation-building.

(A) America's recent and continuing military actions in the Middle East

Across the globe, but especially in the Middle East, we face a myriad of complex foreign policy complications. We should approach these situations with a simple philosophy: the United States does not have to be the de facto policewoman of the world. We have to engage in strength through diplomacy in order protect our values and our people, and to keep us as far away as possible from the disastrous military engagements we have seen ourselves in in the past. We need to advocate for military action when we do so in the name of morality, not when it can be solved with diplomacy instead.

(B) the number and size of American military bases in foreign countries

It is important that we maintain a military presence around the globe, stationed in ally countries, only in order to ensure the national security of the United States and of our allies. We need to do so in such a way that does not infringe on the sovereignty of any country or engender military tensions. I am in support of peace agreements that ensure the overall diplomatic relationship with nations, not the occupation of them. Any military move we make, including where we station ourselves, needs to be the result of consideration of our national security and the strongest future of our alliances.

(C) international trade deals

NATO: President Trump wavered in his support for NATO and our European allies, questioning the relevance of NATO and initially refusing to affirm the U.S. commitment to NATO's Article 5 provision for collective defense. I believe that NATO's Article 5 is at the crux of the treaty itself. Nations coming together in solidarity to protect each other is the essence of what American foreign policy should be like.

Military action should never be the first resort. Keeping NATO strong is a way of keeping Russia from attacking our allies, such as countries in Eastern Europe. If we continue to show that the strength of NATO itself is in question, we continue to threaten the national security and prosperity of all NATO countries.

ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA: The Saudi Arabian government has repeatedly failed to take steps to prevent civilian casualties from its airstrikes in Yemen and to alleviate humanitarian suffering in the country, exacerbating a crisis that has placed millions of Yemenis on the brink of starvation. In May 2017, the Trump Administration announced a package of deals representing \$110 billion in arms sales to Saudi Arabia. I support conditioning the sale of new arms to Saudi Arabia in order to prevent civilian casualties and alleviate humanitarian suffering in Yemen. Since this \$110 billion deal was announced, the Senate narrowly voted to allow a much smaller arms deal with Saudi Arabia which reflects the undeniable concern over how the war in Yemen is a humanitarian crisis. I would support a deal that forces the Saudi Arabian government to prove that they are taking steps to significantly decrease unnecessary civilian deaths by reckless bombing campaigns and starvation. The U.S. is in a position to use potential arms deals as a bargaining chip in exchange for more responsible war tactics in Yemen and I would fully support any measure, including future arms deals, that would pressure the Saudi Arabian government to take steps to prevent civilian casualties and end the humanitarian suffering in Yemen.

NAFTA, PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AND THE U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT have allowed too many American jobs to move overseas. When it comes to trade agreements, I do not think that unrestricted free trade is sustainable. When considering our options, I believe that we need to find the solution that benefits our working families, *not corporations*. The multinational corporations can ship their jobs overseas to create economic competition that our workers cannot keep up with because of our minimum wage. We need to protect the American worker and keep our jobs here.

(D) providing emergency humanitarian aid versus nation-building.

Nation-building is both costly and unethical. We are feeding an image of western superiority and exerting our power on nations that don't want or necessarily need our presence in their lands. This is the solution for ethnocentric politicians like Donald Trump who want to show off our imperialistic capabilities. *This is not sustainable.*

Pertaining to **humanitarian crises**, we must first weight the benefits and the costs of every situation before intruding into foreign territory and claiming to be their savior. We need to do this when we are wanted, needed, and when our actions do not jeopardize American lives. Donald Trump has been an embarrassment to our foreign affairs and is a threat to our relations with other countries. While we should uphold our willingness to respond with aid to humanitarian crises, we also need to look at leading the charge to long-term solutions to international distress. The U.S. should consider human rights campaigns and democratic institutions in their diplomatic missions as these would help build a stronger world with less suffering and oppression. The U.S. has allies all across the globe in all stages of democratic development and if we can incentivize strong democratic institutions and humanitarian reform in developing countries, the U.S. can use its global connections to spur action.

15b. Do you support or oppose President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his order that the U.S. Embassy be relocated to Jerusalem?

OPPOSE

This is one of the most contentious issues that has faced the world in decades. It is to be handled delicately and according to international humanitarian law. Donald Trump, however, is not equipped nor possesses the experienced that is much needed for this sensitive issue.

Without an agreement that brings both sides together, this move by President Trump did little to advance peace talks in the region, in fact it brought them to all but a standstill. We would be better served with a leader who sought to engage both sides in dialogue and laid out a carefully

planned transition to a two state solution, which I still believe can be accomplished, recognizing East Jerusalem as Palestine's capital.

It is my opinion that the capital of Israel should not be moved in order to restore the area as the Palestinian homeland while assuring the Israelis complete peace and security in their space. I also do not believe it is our right or place to make such a determination on a country's capital under any circumstance.

15c. Discuss actions and positions you would take which would be designed to reduce or eliminate the United States' reliance on military force.

- While military intervention remains at the forefront of American foreign policy, I believe it is high time we **lessen our dependence on using our military abroad** and instead, **reallocate some of the funding** towards national issues such as education and healthcare reform. Additionally, we should look towards **diplomatic solutions** rather than rash use of force.
- Although we pride ourselves on **the capability of our robust military, it should be our last resort** considering the **human and economic sacrifices** ensued after any military conflict, as we saw in both Iraq and Afghanistan.
- I believe we need to increase the International Affairs budget. I believe that the efforts of USAID, over a longer period of time, can be more effective than a carrier strike overnight. There are less lives lost, and America can hold onto the dignity that we are quickly losing with our current administration's outrageous behavior. **Strengthening national security does not mean increasing our defense budget, turning our backs to refugees, or pressing big red buttons. It means creating a healthier foreign presence to reduce global tension and save American lives.** President Trump has put our International Affairs budget under attack. By reducing the already minimal amount that it receives, we are hindering human progress. We are allowing defenseless lives to be lost. **That is not what the American identity should be, and it's time to change that.**

CONCLUSION

16. What additional information would you like Our Revolution Maryland to consider when we are making our endorsements decisions?

I am not a political insider. I am not looking to further political aspirations. I am merely looking to represent my set of values and the people in my community at a time when it is urgently

needed. I realize that I lack the legislation experience that some of the other candidates may possess. But I also believe that most of our problems originate from current legislators who are simply not experienced in the issues most critical to our nation today. I am also not beholden to anyone or any interest. I am beholden to my values, which I believe are representative of the people of the 6th district of Maryland. It was not an easy decision to step outside of my comfort zone as a pediatrician, novelist, and business owner, but I also knew that this is when it would count the most.

Please certify by signing below that the above or attached answers reflect your policy views at the time of signature.

Sign:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Hashimi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Print your name: Nadia Hashimi

Date: February 9, 2018