

# 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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

I understand what it means to live paycheck to paycheck, to worry about becoming homeless due to crushing medical debt, and to wonder 'how will I get to tomorrow?'

I know that my experiences made me who I am today, but I got to where I am today because of the social services and communities that helped me. As I cannot repay the people who helped me, I want to make sure that others are able to get the same help I did. I want to pay it forward. And I believe that serving the people of Maryland in Congress is how I am meant to do that.

I have chosen to run for Congress, in part, because I am extremely worried about the state of politics in America and how that will affect my family and the families of all Marylanders. I worry that the rhetoric and lack of upholding Democratic values will destroy our economy, our freedoms and institutions, and our respect for one another. We can do better, and we must do better.

I have lived in Montgomery County for over twelve years with my wife, Suzanne. We were married in the planetarium of the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. Maryland is our home and it is where we have chosen to raise our family. Maryland is where we have built the foundations of our life together and where our children's roots will be. We are committed to making Maryland a better place and ensure that there are always opportunities for all Marylanders to succeed.

With opioid addiction becoming a major public health epidemic in Maryland, I feel compelled to speak up and tell my story in the hope of saving lives and preventing more tragedy. Unfortunately, when I was twelve, my father and I survived a terrible car accident. Four months later, he overdosed on Percocet and nearly died. I made my first 911 call that day, and everything changed after that. My goal is to make sure that no child will ever again have to call 911 to save their parent, family member, or friend from an overdose.

My professional experiences have also prepared me to lead Maryland to greater success. For the last ten years, I have worked in the aerospace industry to pass legislation that will make America more safe, competitive, and prosperous. I have seen the rapid development of technology that I dreamed about when I was young. These new technologies will create tremendous benefits to society, but also cause changes to our economy for which we must prepare. Today, it does not take a rocket scientist to notice and conclude that the emerging economy is built around the rapid advance of technology and access to the internet.

What the average person does not see is that there is almost no part of modern life that is not touched by the aerospace industry, from the cell phones in our pockets to the food on our plates. That is why I am in a unique position to launch Maryland into an economic prosperous future. Maryland must remain a leader in technological innovation, research and development, and investment, but not at the expense of leaving others behind. My campaign is about making a commitment to economic security for poor, working class, and middle-class families.

We should not seek to hinder technological development, but we must ensure that technology serves the good of the community. That is why I will leverage my industry knowledge to achieve better, affordable, high-speed internet access, increase funding for science and coding programs in schools, and increase access and funding to vocational training to ensure our diverse communities can adapt to these rapid technological changes. Such changes are not new in American history, but we can do better to prepare for future success today without sacrificing our values or shared prosperity.

My personal and professional experiences have prepared me to serve the people of Maryland because they reflect the struggles and the hope to succeed; to seek to achieve a better life despite the many obstacles faced every day. These experiences have put me in the unique position to be able to serve the interests of all Marylanders in this increasingly partisan political environment and ever-growing, complex economy. My story is a story of struggle and hope and I will never stray from the value of my experiences when representing the people of Maryland's sixth congressional district.

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.

In Congress, I will conduct myself with compassion, integrity, transparency, and diversity of opinion. I have a strong desire to serve the public interest to ensure my constituents can lead productive, happy, and healthy lives. Personal and financial struggles affect every Marylander, and I will draw upon my personal experiences to show compassion and respect for my constituents and my colleagues in Congress. I will work to bridge divides, seek resolution to long-standing animosities, and work to find solutions to ongoing social and economic problems.

Too often these days, politicians seek power over upholding values. That is why I will commit myself to the integrity of my office. Without honesty, any conversation or pledge is meaningless. Relationships matter, especially on Capitol Hill. Thus, I will stand my ground where policy choices and legislation diverge from the voices of my constituents, but I will not end dialogue where there is hope of compromise. Marylanders deserve a member of Congress who has the integrity to act on their behalf and not for entrenched interests that seek to undermine democracy, American values of openness, honesty, and fairness, or act through a cult of personality to tear down dialogue into base and crass soundbites. Integrity matters, and I will pledge to uphold these values to serve the best interests of the people of Maryland's sixth congressional district.

I have always believed that honesty and transparency are the cornerstones of any ethical life and have carried those principles with me throughout my career. As the congressional representative of Maryland's sixth district, my employers will be my constituents, and it will be my job to faithfully represent their interests on Capitol Hill. I do not believe that the amount of money a person donates or does not donate to a campaign should equate to the volume of their voice in my ear; the interests of those who are working to provide for their families are just as important as those of business, and will be given the consideration that they, the hardworking taxpayers, deserve.

I understand that I cannot represent everyone without understanding the diversity of those I represent; as such, I pledge that my staff will represent the diversity present in the district, to ensure that the voices that ought to be heard will be heard, and their voices amplified by me. I grew up in a highly diverse neighborhood in California and lived in the International House Philadelphia when I attended Temple University - commuting two hours a day from campus and working five part-time jobs, sixty hours a week; hearing diverse voices has always been a part of my life and has enriched it and given me a great appreciation for the struggles of others.

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

Yes. I believe that a fair and transparent nominating process is an essential condition in all democratic elections. That is why I support the Commission's efforts to improve the Democratic Party's nominating process by reducing the number of unpledged superdelegates. This change will empower the membership of our party over the preferences of entrenched party leadership and insiders. The Unity Commission's recommendations will lead to a more faithful and democratic nominating process and I wholeheartedly support implementation.

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

We must seek more participation in our democratic process, otherwise we fail to be a self-governing people. Therefore, I am open to all ideas that help increase participation in our

democracy that would incentivize more diverse voices in our community to compete for the privilege of serving the public. I strongly support the small donor campaign match legislation endorsed by Senator van Hellen (D-MD) for all Maryland elections. I also strongly support the policy of successful campaigns paying back public funds if they raise funds in excess of some amount. Additionally, I am also supportive of a voucher system, such as that proposed by Rep. Sarbanes (D-MD). Having said that, I am very concerned that we continue to equate dollars with speech and would support overturning *Citizens United* with a constitutional amendment or by other legislative means. Permitting the spending of unlimited dollars for independent expenditures is absurd because it distorts the value of a candidate and creates unfair competition. Therefore, I support caps on the amount organizations could spend on independent expenditures.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

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

Yes, I pledge to strongly advocate for Automatic Voter Registration. America is a self-governing nation, and yet participation in our election is low compared to other democratic societies. Voting is both a right and a duty of citizenship, and we can create the conditions for greater democratic participation in the United States if we remove the first obstacle, registering to vote. Every citizen should automatically be registered to vote so that no one is prevented from participating in the electoral process simply because they forgot to update their voter registration or because of partisan obstruction. Greater participation in the process will lead to a more dynamic and representative government, which we sorely need for the good of Marylanders and the good of the nation.

I would like to emphasize that I support making it easier for people to vote. For example, I strongly support a national holiday for primary and general elections. I think symbolically establishing a voting holiday would go a long way to promote democracy in a world that is becoming increasingly entrenched with authoritarians and despots. I am also in favor of expanded absentee balloting and strengthening the security of voter rolls and machines to ensure we detect intrusion into our electoral system. The public deserves to know about the integrity of our voting system and public servants have a duty to ensure every vote is counted accurately and fairly. We cannot permit foreign intrusion into our election system ever again. I would therefore support strengthening our electoral system with dedicated infrastructure funds.

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.

First, let me say that I pledge that I will always consult with the NAACP, the ACLU, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and other minority stakeholder groups for their valued input in my support for federal legislation or policy changes that address continued stigma and discrimination of minority groups. While there can be no adequate remedy for past harms, we do know that no child in America can succeed without access to a quality education in pursuit of his or her passion. That is why I am an outspoken advocate for education reform both of our public-school system and for higher education (See education policy below). Education is the single greatest equalizer for social and economic inequality in America and we need to do much more to ensure that this benefit is enjoyed by all regardless of background. It is vital that America find a way for all Americans, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances, to be able attend college or vocational schools, if they choose. That is why I am committed to passing HR 1880, a plan to make higher education free for all qualified students. Passing this legislation will be one of the great social justice initiatives of our times and will go a long way to reducing the historical effects of social and economic inequality in America.

I will continue to oppose racial profiling in policing. No citizen should be arrested by police for looking possibly like a suspect of a crime. That is not the legal standard for an arrest. We must uphold the rule of law and defend the rights of innocent people to conduct their affairs in public without threat of arrest for being a minority. For similar reasons, I also support more funding for community-based policing (volunteer or professional) to ensure officers from the communities they police grow familiar with the people they protect and serve. We must continue to be an open society that promotes respect, compassion, and integrity among each other, not fear, apathy, or suspicion.

I also support funding for the judicial branch to conduct audits and independent research of state and federal judges who administer warrants to ensure that the burden of probable cause is met by prosecutors within the bounds of the law. Too often the criminal justice system, due to a lack of resources or appropriate oversight, incentivizes judges to not fully deliberate on a warrant application that may lack sufficient evidence to meet the burden of probable cause. Too often, some judges spend no more than thirty to forty-five seconds reviewing a warrant application. This result leads to abuse by prosecutors. I believe that Congress has a duty to ensure the fair administration of justice and it cannot seek solutions without valid data to address underlying problems in our republic.

I support sentencing reform, especially addressing disparities in the application of mandatory minimums. Too often, in the pursuit of justice and the application of criminal punishment, minorities are punished for the same activity as whites, but sentences more harshly by the substance used, e.g., crack vs. cocaine. I will support amendments to the Fair Sentencing Act to ensure the fair and equitable administration of justice in sentencing to ensure minorities are not punished more harshly for engaging in the same types of criminal activity as whites.

I support increased funding for public defenders who serve on the front lines of justice. Too often minority defendants are put at a disadvantage due to lack of resources for their public defenders. I am committed to the fair and equitable administration of justice. For without a

sense of justice in our legal system, we undermine the rule of law and subject defendants to an unfair system designed to punish rather than rehabilitate.

## EDUCATION

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

Yes. If America wants to succeed in the fiercely competitive global economy of the 21st century, it needs to have the best-educated workforce in the world. In getting to that goal- we must also become a tuition-free country. This goal is vital both to guarantee American competitiveness on the world stage but also to fulfil the maxim that America is a country where everyone gets a fair shot. The College for All Act is both a practical approach to making college accessible for all those who want it and great equalizer, allowing rich and poor to compete for the first time on roughly equal footing.

Of course, there is more to the story than making college more affordable. It is paramount that we also modernize our primary school system to keep pace with demands of modern society. I believe that the federal government needs to find a way to encourage the states to extend the school year in concert with its effort to make college more affordable. States should find the optimal amount of time to teach students basic skills necessary to compete in this new American economy and reduce the burden of testing of basic skills mandated under No Child Left Behind. We also need to find ways to help states pay for a robust STEM curriculum that provides all students with the skills they need to participate in the 21st century job market- whether they choose to attend college or not. All graduating high school students need to be equipped with the basic knowledge and skills needed to participate to succeed in our shared global economy.

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?

I want to increase the number of professions that are eligible to take advantage of public service loan forgiveness, to both attract the best and brightest to perform vital community services, and to help alleviate loan repayment obstacles encountered by many student-borrowers. In addition, tuition assistance and scholarships should continue to be a non-taxable benefit. There is absolutely no reason why we should ever pay for corporate tax cuts with tax increases on scholarships.

Perkins loans and Pell grants must be reformed and expanded to benefit poor and working-class loan applicants. Educational opportunities must not be reserved only for those who can afford them, but for those who have earned them. The ability to afford a prohibitively expensive college tuition should not dictate who deserves to access a quality education,

whether it be undergraduate or graduate studies. I would also introduce legislation that would require all public universities to set aside funds to provide for students from lower and middle-class backgrounds within their endowments.

Income-based graduate school tuition assistance and living stipends to support graduate students should also be made available, and greater tax benefits should be given to families who are supporting their children in school. In addition, FAFSA rules should be rewritten to allow more students to qualify, particularly given volatile tuition rate increases year to year.

Education is a public good and is good for the public. It should not be used to create or preserve inequalities in our nation, but to remedy them. If elected, I will work daily to ensure that the talented students from all walks of Maryland life have access to the quality education they deserve. A well-educated population is the platform from which Maryland will be launched into the 21st century.

### **HEALTH CARE**

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

At this time, I do not support a single-payer universal health care system because, as of yet, there has been insufficient detail and economic analysis on the impact of such a system. I agree access to healthcare and emergency care is a human right. I admire and support Senator Sanders' approach to highlight the issue, but I am concerned about how to implement such a program, especially given the way Republicans have sabotaged the Affordable Care Act. The root of the problem, I believe, is the profit incentive of healthcare providers and insurers, but given the weakness of American politics currently to the outside influence of the healthcare lobby, I am not optimistic that a single payer system would not be sabotaged itself. Thus, I want to see the insurance markets stabilized before moving forward to another system.

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

No. As mentioned previously, I support strengthening and improving the Affordable Care Act rather than inventing a single payer system. I believe that our existing healthcare system is currently in shock from so many abrupt changes and it is not currently in our best interest to risk destabilizing it with another massive and abrupt change. To get us on a sustainable path to affordable healthcare for most Americans, I believe we need to concentrate on reducing the cost of administering health care services and ensuring competition in the health insurance marketplace. I am supportive of the Medicare expansion in Maryland and would like to see that continue.

If you answered no, what other legislation or other policy changes do you support in order to ensure that all Americans have access to quality affordable health care?

Congress has a duty to stabilize the healthcare system and to find permanent ways to reduce the cost of administering this important but expensive program so that the country can forever afford to provide its citizen the opportunity to live healthy, happy, and productive lives.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has already brought peace of mind and quality healthcare to more than 20 million of our citizens. Given the demonstrated success of the ACA, despite Republican efforts to undermine it, it remains the most viable path forward. To preserve and expand the gains we have already made, I favor reinstating the individual mandate to help cover the cost of healthcare expansion.

I also advocate the expansion of preventative programs such as laws that disclose the calorie content of food ordered at restaurants. These programs are vitally important to helping our citizens make informed choices about their diet and will save the healthcare system money in avoidable medical expenses. Anything that we can do to encourage our people to live healthy lifestyles will dramatically reduce the long-term burden on our public healthcare system.

To actually deliver real results on healthcare for the people of Maryland, we need the Congress to make a continuous push for innovation in our healthcare system. To get us on this path, I pledge to never take a “my way or the highway” approach when it comes to healthcare issues. Anyone who is serious about delivering results must remain committed to compromise and working past ideology. The people of Maryland deserve a representative who values progress above self-interest, party, or fiscal mismanagement - especially given the fact that vital social programs like social security are quickly becoming insolvent.

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?

Opioid addiction is one of the most destructive forces currently plaguing the United States, with few Marylanders (or Americans) unaffected by the crisis - including my family. As a young man, I watched my father overdose on opioids right in front of me. I lost my own father to this crisis, but I do not want another child to lose their parent, which is happening all too often, day after day, as this crisis continues.

First, the federal government needs to provide more support to the states in the form of coordination, information sharing, and yes, more money. The government should continue to provide grants to the states so that they can continue to provide extraordinary care to those affected by the ravages of addiction. Our goal should be to get addicts on a path to becoming productive and successful members of society.

While I respect and believe in the appropriate use of our criminal justice system, opioid crimes (particularly those committed by addicts instead of dealers) are a symptom, not the disease. I

favor federal criminal justice reform that gives non-violent addicts a fair and meaningful chance to get a hold of their disease.

We should also carefully consider the costs of continuing to criminalize Marijuana, a substance with legitimate medical uses and a relatively low risk of addiction, and yet healthcare providers are unable to prescribe it. Meanwhile, extremely potent opioids, which are legitimately dangerous and lead to deaths every day, are prescribed daily, despite the well-known risks of addiction and overdose.

Research has also demonstrated that in states where recreational marijuana was legalized public health officials recorded lower rates of new opioid addiction. Legalizing marijuana will not heal the hurts that have been dealt to our citizens by opioids but finding patients alternatives to control chronic pain and other symptoms of disease is vital to loosening the stranglehold that opioids currently have on our country.

### **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

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

Yes. I believe that the purpose of government-furnished health care is to give low-income Americans a fair shot a living happy, healthy, and productive lives. Today, however, federal funding restrictions on Medicaid coverage for abortion forces one in four women to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term. This completely defeats the purpose of providing Medicaid coverage because it effectively removes choice for low income women. I believe that society is best served by a public healthcare system that is based on our most foundational principle of equality, and so I support the goals of the EACH Woman Act.

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

Reproductive rights in America are fundamental to the well-being of our people and our nation. Like most Americans, I believe that the state should not interfere with a person's reproductive choices. That is why I support the EACH Woman Act of 2017. That bill guarantees that neither the federal government nor the states can interfere with insurance coverage of family planning services. Further, I believe that public health care plans should be required to include contraceptive coverage. Access to contraceptives prevents unwanted pregnancy and encourages safe sex and can be used to treat a variety of conditions for women. Access to contraceptives should be considered a fundamental right, and no government, state or federal, should get in between a doctor and her patient.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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

Yes. The explosive growth of the private prison industry in recent years highlights the inequities of operating our prison system with a for-profit motive. Under the Obama Administration, the Department of Justice concluded that the use of private prisons is unethical and began taking administrative action to phase out their use. Regretfully, the Trump administration no longer favors phasing out the private prison industrial complex. We need to pass HR 3227 to once and for all eliminate this shameful practice.

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

I am in favor of the “Ban the Box” movement, now mandated in at least 10 states. It is difficult for ex-offenders to find work, which increases the chances that ex-offenders will become re-offenders. To increase the chance that an ex-offender can find work, Ban the Box States prevent employers from asking about prior criminal history on their initial job application. Interviewers can still ask during an interview about an applicant’s criminal history, but the ability to explain their circumstances to a human instead of a computer can help ex-offenders find work and rejoin society as productive members of the community. Studies show that banning the box makes it more likely for an ex-offender to get past the initial screening performed with a job application.

Beyond helping those who have already been to prison avoid going back, our primary goal should be to prevent people from going in the first place. That means we need to implement programs to better educate our children, to provide parents and kids the resources they need to stay in school, to stay fed, stay focused, and give them a suitable environment to learn. We also owe it to them to teach them the skills they will need to compete in the economy of the near future, a job we are failing at today. We need to ensure that our primary education system prepares all young people to become useful, productive, and gainful members of the community. Breaking the cycle will require action and investment but failing to do so will cost so much more.

## 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?

Shortly after President Trump assumed office, he made the disastrous choice to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accords. This treaty is intended to spare humanity from the most

punishing consequences of climate change. If elected, I would aggressively seek legislation both to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare the United States for a changing climate, which is now largely inevitable.

First, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, I favor the national Cap and Trade program. Cap and Trade seeks reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by placing limits on how much carbon a company can emit. The cap creates a monetary incentive to reduce emissions because companies can trade or sell emission credits.

Second, we need to modernize and prepare our electrical system for the utility demand of the 21st century. Several trends, currently in progress, such as the electrification of the vehicle fleet will necessitate generating much more electricity than we are able today. We need to invest in clean energy generating technologies to ensure that as the need arises we have sufficient clean energy capacity to power our homes, and the vehicle fleet of the future.

Finally, we need to begin preparing to harden our cities, industry, farms and other vital centers from a changing climate. Almost every scientific study anticipates significant sea level rise by mid-century and other ominous environmental changes. Prudence demands that we begin to plan for these eventualities now, while we still have time to act.

The National Park Service is facing one of its greatest threats in the program's 100-year history. It is a crisis of neglect that has taken the form of deferred maintenance projects, insufficient funding and a Congress and Administration that pays lip-service to these issues.

That is why, in Congress, I would help preserve our parks by introducing legislation similar to the National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017. This bipartisan bill, introduced by Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-Oh), would immediately begin to address the \$12 billion backlog in urgently needed repairs. Including, 75,000 campgrounds, natural lands, historic trails, irrigation and electrical systems, as well as thousands of miles of roads. The National Park System is one of our nation's greatest and most irreplaceable treasures, and we must maintain and support the Parks.

I also believe that our tax system has a role to play in encouraging consumers to adopt new clean technologies. For example, the existing tax credit for electric vehicle sales has been highly effective at stimulating demand for electric vehicles. I am in favor of ending the tax breaks for high income Americans that President Trump and the Republican congress passed, and instead extend and expand the electric and hybrid vehicle tax credit to accelerate the national effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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

I oppose the proposed pipeline because there exist better uses for the canal and I am worried about the ecological damage building such a pipeline would cause to Maryland's ecosystem.

My campaign is about leading Maryland into the 21st century economy, and one of the greatest challenges is to completely and permanently end our dependence on the dirty fossil fuel industry. The proposed pipeline through Hancock will deliver natural gas to customers in West Virginia but endangers the drinking water for millions of Maryland and D.C. residents.

Ending our dependence on fossil fuels is also the greatest opportunity for progress in the 21st century. By 2022, Maryland will see 20% of its energy needs supplied by renewable, clean energy, and that percentage will only grow as we launch deeper into the 21st century. It is time that we as a nation embraced the clean energy future and sought the opportunities that come with meeting the challenges of our energy needs.

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

Yes, I support a phased increase to a \$15 federal minimum wage. See answers below.

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

Yes. I believe that the minimum wage should rise, however, phased in over a five-year period to help small businesses manage the change. I am also open to a tax credit for small businesses that implement voluntary increases in their minimum wage to employees early.

After five years, the statutory minimum wage must be matched to inflation, and the cost of living must also be accounted for in the minimum wage. Military salaries are adjusted for inflation every year, and the local cost of living is also adjusted for. There is no reason that the minimum wage should not be subject to the same annual review without requiring Congress to intervene and vote every year.

The tax code must also be fixed, with the wealthy required to pay their fair share. The economy cannot be borne on the backs of the lower and middle classes, with the super wealthy and upper class getting a pass because they can donate to political campaigns.

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

Yes, I will support legislation that imposes a small tax on certain financial trading transaction to invest in infrastructure spending, on the environment, to strengthen social security, and other domestic priorities that are insufficiently funded. HR 1144 seeks to accomplish this goal by placing a very small tax on the purchase of certain financial securities. While the tax is very small, over a period of ten years, this law could generate as much as \$600 billion in urgently needed domestic priorities like those mentioned above.

Of course, this bill is not a panacea. I fully anticipate and would work to amend the bill prior to passage. For example, I believe that pension plan and selected retirement savings accounts should be exempted from the tax to prevent a chilling effect on retirement saving.

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.

Social security reform should consider the different needs of elderly men and women. Additionally, the gender pay gap is an insidious stain on our economy and is one of the last institutionalized forms of discrimination. The Civil Rights Act of 1963 (as amended) includes gender protections, and yet, like the administration's ham-handed attempt at a transgender ban for the armed forces, it is clear that we need to write more specific laws. We need to enact more laws to ensure that families can benefit from paid family leave, as the first year is the most critical to the brain development of our children. We need to enact more laws to ensure that there are real consequences to discrimination, and that inclusion is so normal that future generations learn about discrimination in a history book, not with doors slammed in their faces.

### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE/CORPORATE INFLUENCE**

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

Yes. Money should not equal a louder voice than that of any other citizen, and that has been the effect of *Citizens United*. Corporations can use their money to drown out the voices of hardworking Americans across the country, and it must stop.

Explain your answer above and include any other solutions that you propose for the problem of undue influence over legislators exercised by large corporations and the very wealthy.

If dollars are spent promoting a political position or politician, there must be reporting requirements to the FEC. No one should be able to make independent expenditures to benefit a

campaign without being subject to donation caps- and there must be more stringent and transparent reporting requirements to ensure the fairness of our elections.

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.

As a director of legislative affairs, I directed no PAC and I often used personal funds to attend political events, and I was far from the only lobbyist to do so. I have volunteered for lobby day on the Hill as a student to promote science education and aerospace funding. Lobbying works to get the attention of political leaders but is easily corruptible when we elect members who know nothing, hire the sons and cousins of their friends and donors, and must rely on the biased “expertise” of lobbyists. We need to strengthen Congressional reporting requirements for lobbyists to safeguard against those lobbyists with questionable moral principles. In the meantime, I will continue to be fully transparent about who gives to my campaign.

My campaign has received contributions from friends, family, and colleagues that work in every part of our economy, and that includes lobbyists, lawyers, and CEOs.

Every one of my constituents deserves to have a voice and deserves to be heard, whether Democrat or Republican, donor or non-donor, CEO or janitor or anyone in between. I want to serve every person in my district, and if the donation of a lobbyist or CEO will help me do that, I thank them for their belief in me. However, a donation does not mean special favors and it does not act as a key to the kingdom, and my staff and my donors all know that.

### **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.

Women are habitually sexually harassed and then blamed for what is done to them, and it absolutely must stop. Addressing the problem of sexual harassment must begin in Congress, and I believe that will be my responsibility to set the example. First, I believe that the most vulnerable on the Hill are the interns, who are often young, from out of town, and unaware of what resources are available to help them. I will propose and support an orientation program for interns that teaches them how to access those resources and who is there to help them.

I also believe that staffers and Congressional employees need to know and be confident that they will be listened to, heard, and believed if they are brave enough to come forward. Congress must set an example, and then it must set the standard. Once Congress puts a system in place that is acceptable to female employees and members of Congress, then we can use that system as a model to implement nationwide.

## HOMOPHOBIA

14. Describe or identify federal legislation that you would support in order to address the discrimination faced by the LGBTQIA community.

The role of government is to protect and defend the rights of all, especially minorities who would otherwise be subject to discrimination by the majority.

People who buy and sell goods and services have choices. However, when these choices seek to exclude others based on identity, it crosses the line of social norms to legal exclusion. Legal discrimination distorts our economy, marginalizes human choice and agency, and exposes the tyranny of the majority. I do not believe every marginalized group needs individualized protections, but such protections must ensure no one is prevented from participating in the American economy.

I would propose or support changes to the Civil Rights Act to add protections for LGBTQIA. For example, most states already have laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, but no such protection exists at the federal level. I favor explicit statutory protection for all vulnerable classes.

I would also advocate for an explicit transgender rights act, putting into federal law that those who are transgender are eligible to serve in the military and in any federal position they are qualified for. I would also liaise with the LGBTQIA community, including the Human Rights Campaign, and ensure that I am proposing and supporting legislation that has the backing of the LGBTQIA community. LGBTQIA rights are human rights, plain and simple, and I will defend them.

## 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.

I am concerned with how President Trump has conducted foreign policy and injected unclear statements into the public sphere that confuse our allies and invite our adversaries to draw conclusions we have no intention of signaling. This could lead to greater conflict, the loss of human life, and the disruption of the global economy.

At no point in American history have we been embroiled in more conflicts than right now. Teenagers graduating from high school this year have never known a time in their lives when our nation was not at war in the Middle East; wars have become agonizing wars of attrition and

conflicts have spread. Our soldiers continue to fight the same war over the same fragmented battlefields, with no appreciable progress toward a demonstrable goal year after year.

It is time that Congress truly examined the 2002 Authorization on the Use of Military Force (AUMF) that first authorized the War on Terror and determine if it truly applies to fragmented conflicts 15 years later. Immediate withdrawal from conflict is unwise and risks what little ground we have gained in these conflicts. A restructuring of the AUMF will allow Congress to regain its Article I war powers responsibilities. It can also restrict the scope and freedom the administration has to wage wars across the world with the loosely-applied excuse that it is part of the War on Terror.

I am also strongly in favor of auditing the Department of Defense to ensure that national security, foreign policy, and diplomatic initiatives are aligned with the goals of supporting peace and democracy, limiting conflict, and respecting the sovereignty of nations. The procurement office of the Pentagon recently admitted to losing over \$900 million. The practice of turning a blind eye to fraud, waste, and abuse within the Department of Defense must end now.

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?

I oppose the unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the relocation of the US Embassy. Doing so derails any potential for brokering talks between Israel and Palestine. It shows blatant favoritism and communicates to Israel that there are no consequences to continued aggression against Palestinians and communicates to Palestine that negotiations will not be fair or impartial, but horribly one-sided. The international community should be greatly invested in ending hostilities in the region at this point, not in finger-pointing or assigning blame.

Moving the embassy would cost hundreds of millions of dollars and years to complete. Moreover, I refuse to put our diplomatic officers in danger, without a clear strategy for doing so.

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

I would support legislation and a national budget that invests heavily in diplomacy over destruction. A robust, engaged corps of well-trained and culturally competent foreign service officers and diplomats can reduce our reliance on military force without a loss in national security. I would further advocate for investment in evidence-driven development programs, and increase funding to USAID, technical assistance, and scientist exchange programs. Both

formal and informal avenues of diplomacy must be pursued to strengthen our international relationships and cooperation, thereby increasing national security while we reduce our dependence on the military.

I believe that the military is equipped to do more than destroy- the military is trained and capable of responding to emergencies and disasters. The Department of Defense is no longer called the War Department for a reason. We saw this when Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti and the US military were the first to reach the island with supplies and aid. I'd like to see a transformation of our military from aggressors to first responders- capable of defending those who need protection, but even more so of helping those who face an impossible situation. A transformation like that will allow our military to use the unique skills it has, without causing needless death and destruction; quite the opposite.

### **CONCLUSION**

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

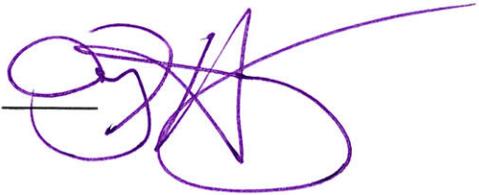
I want the voters of Maryland to know that I understand their struggles. I grew up in a lower middle-class family, went to public school, and watched addiction tear my family apart. I was devastated by circumstances far beyond my control- particularly by an injury that could happen to anyone, and the struggle to pay back the medical bills in the years that followed. But I also want the voters of Maryland to know there is always hope that circumstances will get better. I was given an opportunity to succeed by the social services that make our country the land of possibility that it is, and I know that I would not be where I am today without that help. I worked long, hard hours in the food service and non-profit industries, and continued my career in the public and corporate sectors, giving me the opportunity to understand the motivations of every sector of society.

I had to overcome these early challenges and work my way up to where I am now, but I never lost hope with the support of friends, families, mentors, and teachers. Their support and encouragement made it possible for me to lift myself out of near poverty and unfortunate circumstances. It does take a village to shape a child's life, but it also takes compassion and integrity to build the character of a community. I will always be grateful for the people and the social services that helped me to become a productive and accomplished person. That is why in Congress, I will fight every day for the hard-working people of Maryland, for those who have been stricken by tragedy, and those who feel that they have been cast aside. From my life experiences, dignity and respect for all people is what I will bring to the Congress, and my policies will reflect these values.

The struggles that many Marylanders face today are struggles that I have had. The challenges that Maryland faces in participating fully in the economy of the future are challenges that I understand. And the hopes that Marylanders have for their families are the hopes that I have,

too. It would be the greatest honor of my life to represent the best people in the nation, the constituents of Maryland's 6th District.

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

Sign: 

Print your name: Christopher Hearshey

Date: 2/11/18