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2008 AARP Voters' Guide

Delaware State Senate District 10

How to use the AARP Voters' Guide:
Here's how this Voters' Guide works. AARP asked key questions about issues important to our members and their families of each major candidate for this race. Each candidate was allowed up to 125 words to answer each question. AARP did not edit or modify those answers. The candidates were asked to check the support or oppose circles. The candidates may have chosen not to check a circle.

AARP has provided a summary of our position for each of the issues.

- Pass this guide on to friends and family.
- Share your views with the candidates.
- Ask for clarification from any candidate whose answer seems unclear.

Be sure to vote on November 4.

www.aarp.org/elections

Q ■ *Do you support or oppose the creation of a state-facilitated savings plan for Delaware workers who lack access to a retirement savings plan at work? (Please limit response to 125 words.)*

AARP's Position:

AARP supports adoption of this kind of state-facilitated savings plan.

Support **Oppose**

**Mr. James Weldin
(Republican):**

Creation of a state-facilitated retirement savings plan

Support **Oppose**

**Rep. Bethany Hall-Long
(Democrat):**

Creation of a state-facilitated retirement savings plan

Support **Oppose**

More than half of American workers lack access to a retirement savings plan at work. One approach to expand savings is to use a state's expertise, experience, and leverage with retirement plan providers to establish workplace savings programs for small private employers that don't have such programs.

Small employers find that their size exposes them to high plan fees that are prohibitive. When many small employers are combined, providers are more interested and costs drop. To keep employers' cost low, the ongoing expenses of operating such a program would be paid from participants' fees. The state would supervise the establishment and oversight of such a plan, but would have no fiduciary or legal liability for it.

I support various opportunities for the state to provide its leverage for small businesses in the area of health care and worker savings. I agree with the concept that by allowing small employers to combine with other small employers it lowers the cost for programs such as these and the state is in good position to leverage for such a program.

*Note: Difficult to do likely at this time with economic stressors, but long term possibility.

It is important that a retirement system be in place for small and large businesses. The state role would be limited due to legal and economic issues, but is important for future of many American workers and their savings.

Q.

In the face of escalating cost, how would you reform the health care system to make it available, affordable and accessible for every Delawarean? (Please limit response to 125 words.)

AARP's Position:

Supports measures to achieve access to affordable health care coverage.

Support Oppose

There are an estimated 104,000 uninsured people in Delaware. AARP supports measures to achieve access to affordable health care coverage for all individuals. In the absence of universal coverage, AARP supports incremental reforms specifically targeted to particular populations that significantly improve coverage options for those without public or private insurance, or those at risk of losing coverage.

Opening existing public programs (e.g., Medicaid) to new categories of people who are uninsured; subsidizing the cost of private coverage for those who are uninsured, underinsured, or at risk of losing coverage. To pay for this, AARP supports cost containment through an evidence-based preferred list; multi-state purchasing pools; and supplemental rebates for prescription drugs. AARP opposes efforts to cap Medicaid through block grants.

Mr. James Weldin

(Republican):

Increasing access to health insurance.

Support Oppose

I support increasing access to health insurance as suggested AARP. One of the proposals I have been suggesting is to allow the state to provide a pool of health insurance for small business, and those who are uninsured. Therefore I support this type of access to health insurance.

Rep. Bethany Hall-Long

(Democrat):

Increasing access to health insurance.

Support Oppose

I support health care reform and have sponsored a number of bills to expand access to care (i.e. SCHIP and dental care, SB6-Health Insurance Pool) and to improve health of Delawareans (i.e. Chronic Illness Task Force, Primary Stroke Centers, Cancer Cluster Right to Know). I have supported Medicaid expansion and Medicaid Buy-In. As a member of the DE Health Fund committee, I have also supported the prescription assistance program or "Pill Bill".

Long Term Care: Rebalancing

Q

What specific steps would you take to ensure that consumers in need of long-term care have access to a full range of services, so that they have a choice to remain in their own homes rather than be placed in a nursing home. (Please limit response to 125 words.)

AARP's Position:

Rebalancing our long-term care system, including programs which allow certain nursing home residents to transition into less restrictive settings.

Support Oppose

Delawareans who need help with activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing, and dressing, should have the choice to stay at home rather than be forced into a nursing home. Annually, the state spends 91 percent of its long-term care budget on nursing homes, and only 9 percent on home- and community-based care, despite the fact it often costs significantly more for nursing home care than home or community based services, and many nursing home residents can receive appropriate care in the home or community.

AARP supports removing the funding inequality that favors nursing homes over home- and community-based long-term care. Programs should be expanded to permit nursing home residents with less intensive care needs to transition back home or into other less restrictive settings.

Mr. James Weldin (Republican):

Rebalancing our long-term care system, including programs which allow certain nursing home residents to transition into less restrictive settings.

Support Oppose

Yes I support removing funding inequality that favors nursing homes over home and community based long term-care.

Rep. Bethany Hall-Long (Democrat):

Rebalancing our long-term care system, including programs which allow certain nursing home residents to transition into less restrictive settings.

Support Oppose

As a State Representative as well as a public health nurse, I am very supportive of the community based and transitional services with comprehensive services. Choice is very important for long-term care options. Delawareans deserve the best nursing home and home care services. Home health assistance is vital for activities of daily living. As a UD Professor of Nursing, I have seen the increased demand for home based physical and mental support of our elderly population.