



# Candidate Questionnaire

## October 2018

**Food Lifeline’s goal is to elevate the issue of hunger with candidates during the election cycle.** Each candidate for state and federal office received our questionnaire. For every candidate that replied, their original responses are presented as submitted. See results at [foodlifeline.org/advocacy](http://foodlifeline.org/advocacy).

Sarah Smith	Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, District 9 (Kent)
<p>If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?</p>	<p>My platform addresses these in numerous way, including: * Increasing the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to a living wage, tied to inflation. In 2018, no one who works 40 hours a week should be living in poverty. * Fight for pay equity by signing the Paycheck Fairness Act into law. It is an outrage that women earn just 78 cents for every dollar a man earns. * From my first day in office, I will co-sponsor the current incarnation of a Medicare for All bill (H.R. 676) to ensure no American ever has to worry about healthcare again. * Cancel all existing student loan debt, make tuition free at public colleges and universities and stop the federal government from making a profit of over \$110 billion on student loans. This is morally wrong, and it’s bad economics.</p>
<p>In Washington, 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?</p>	<p>I believe to sufficiently address these problems, we need a broad set of legislative actions to address the underlying causes of poverty and hunger: income inequality, low wages, access to affordable housing, and universal healthcare to name just a few. For working mothers, that means making healthcare a right. Today, women have much higher healthcare expenses than men and pay a greater portion of their healthcare costs out of their own pockets. Women make up two-thirds of the low-wage workforce and only about 23 percent of low-wage jobs provide health insurance. It is time for a Medicare for All single-payer healthcare system so they don’t have to worry about their child’s healthcare costs. For children, that means maintain federal support for afterschool programs provided through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, make tuition free at public colleges and universities, and invest in wrap-around support services like health, mental health, nutrition and family supports.</p>
<p>Food insecurity is a major contributor to poor health and higher healthcare costs, what steps or legislative actions would you take to help food insecure people with chronic diseases, like diabetes, have access to nutritious food?</p>	<p>First things first, we must eliminate those high healthcare costs which is why my first day in office, I will co-sponsor the Medicare for All bill to ensure no American ever has to worry about healthcare again. I will fight to require employers to provide at least 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave (two weeks of paid vacation; and 7 paid sick days per year) so workers have the flexibility to see a doctor for preventative</p>

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care and address health issues before they become an emergency. Next, we must strengthen and support the programs assisting people experiencing poverty and poor health. At a time when the senior poverty rate is going up, we have got to make sure that every American can retire with dignity and respect. We must expand Social Security by lifting the cap on taxable income above \$250,000 and demand that the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share in taxes.

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10/17/18