

Melissa Hart

Employment

“What would you like to do to make sure that employment barriers are lessened or eliminated for people with disabilities?”

- Rep. Hart suggests that the benefit limits need to be increased for workers with paying jobs before any benefits might be lost or decreased. This is important since limits have not kept up with 2022 costs and prices. Increasing benefit limits will not be a large problem for taxpayers, while at the same time, really helping those who need the benefits.
- Rep. Hart believes in promoting self-determination through offering benefits to people to encourage them to seek employment.
- Rep. Hart suggests developing a better system to connect employers with people who are looking for jobs, and encouraging policies to increase working remotely

Transportation

“Transportation is difficult in many rural communities, regardless of disability. What will you do to address accessible transportation needs for people with disabilities?”

- Rep. Hart thinks expanding low cost examples of transportation that are working well in some communities to more areas across the state.
- Rep. Hart wants to solve problems, regarding ease of access, that exist in many older cities, by enforcing ADA rules better, and will suggest state-federal partnerships for funding this program.
- Rep. Hart suggests exploring the use of technology based solutions like self driving cars.

Home and Community Based Services


“What would you do to increase the availability of Home and Community Based Services?”

- Rep. Hart suggests reducing the shortage of personal care attendants and other support workers by pushing employers to use training and tools, such as signing bonuses, to motivate workers who may be looking for second careers.
- Rep. Hart prefers policies that encourage more people to use Home and Community Based Services instead of institutional care, due to better consumer results; even if costs are high to start out with, long term costs will be reduced.



Melissa Hart served three terms in Washington, D.C., representing PA’s 4th District from 2001-2007. Since leaving the U.S. House of Representatives, she has spent 14 years practicing law. Rep. Hart also serves on the board of directors for a small business lender.



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Healthcare

“What could you do to improve understanding and sensitivity for clinicians regarding disabilities, and ultimately for everyone?”

- Rep. Hart suggests encouraging policy so that when medical school professors develop their curriculum for medical students, it will include working with people in the disability community, especially as we have many medical schools, particularly in Pennsylvania.



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