

# Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC 2015 Questionnaire for D.C. Council Candidates

## HOME RULE

1. If Congress acts to block recent bills enacted by the District to repeal the Armstrong Amendment and to prohibit conversion therapy for minors, will you speak out during your campaign in defense of these bills, and if elected will you stand with your colleagues against congressional meddling? **Yes. It is well documented that conversion therapy does not work and can be abusive. In the African American community getting individuals to participate in therapy is difficult enough without the negative experience of conversion therapy. I believe that the residents of DC should be able to make decisions without members of congress from other places meddling in our affairs.**

## FAMILIES

2. Will you support Bill 21-16, the Collaborative Reproduction Amendment Act of 2015, to legalize and regulate surrogacy agreements? **Yes I will support the Collaborative Reproduction Amendment Act of 2015. I have friends who have become parents through surrogacy I appreciate the protections that will be afforded the intended parents.**

## HEALTH

3. If you are assigned to the Committee on Health and Human Services, what will you do to improve performance at the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA), including in HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS surveillance, and mental health services?

**HAHSTA is the core agency to prevent HIV/AIDS, STDs, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis, reduce transmission of the diseases and provide care and treatment to persons with the diseases. It would be important for me to evaluate the community partners in Ward 8 to have a better understanding of the services that are provided to our residents. Based on the information available from the surveillance report we can improve upon the timing of testing and reporting. I would be interested in learning who the agency partners are so that we can improve outreach through additional partners that may offer connections to residents that are not currently being reached.**

4. Will you support legislation establishing a regulatory framework to set LGBT cultural competency standards for healthcare providers? **Yes I believe that ensuring that a level of cultural competency is important for providers of all services is important, specifically healthcare services. When the provider is sensitive to the culture of the client not only do services improve but quality of life also improves.**

5. Will you support budgets that target funds to address health disparities in the LGBT population, including in mental health and substance abuse treatment? **Yes. Living and working in Ward 8 I experience the disparities in services on a daily basis. The**



**relationship between mental health and substance abuse in our community is one that needs a greater focus on the impacts of our community.**

#### JUDICIARY

6. If you are assigned to the Committee on the Judiciary, will you press for increased oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department's gathering and analysis of crime statistics to ensure greater comprehensiveness and objectivity, including transgender-related hate crime data? **Yes. The collection and analysis of crime statistics is imperative to addressing the issues that impact our community. We must not shy away from a true understanding of why all members in our community are victims of crime.**

7. Will you support Bill 21-38, the Death with Dignity Act of 2015? **Yes, I support the Death with Dignity Act. It is important to understand the requirements for the Act to apply and provide those residents who are eligible with an opportunity to die in a humane way and with dignity.**

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Will you push to establish a project to increase government hiring from under-represented populations, including transgender people? **Yes, I will push very aggressively to increase government hiring of underrepresented populations.**

#### YOUTH AND SENIORS

9. Will you support improved services and treatment for LGBT homeless youth and seniors, including transitional housing? **Yes. I have known many young people that have become homeless because of family issues regarding their being LGBT. We must look to address this issue both through transitional and permanent housing. I know of a couple in DC that has opened their home to LGBT seniors because of the great needs in the community but are having difficulties with finances. We must not only find ways to support community efforts but look to create supportive housing for the LGBT community.**

#### CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES

10. Will you defend the right of adults in the District to choose adult-oriented entertainment for themselves, and the right of appropriately licensed and zoned businesses to provide it? **Yes I will defend the rights of adults to make adult decisions. In Ward 8 we have significant accountability issues as revenue has superceded many vendor decisions to abide by the law. Accountability and enforcement will be very important for me in making sure that minors are not able to participate in adult activities.**

Your record is part of your rating. Please list any actions that you have taken that may help illustrate your record on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

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**As an employer I have intentionally created a work environment that is open and supportive. In addition in the curriculum training of our staff we focus efforts on the definition of family being inclusive of all families.**

Your answers should be typed in a separate document rather than on this form. *You must sign your name on each answer sheet to indicate your personal commitment to your answers.*

Please return your signed questionnaire responses by Thursday, March 5 to GLAA, P.O. Box 75265, Washington, D.C. 20013; or email it as an attachment in PDF format (for loading on GLAA's website) to [equal@glaa.org](mailto:equal@glaa.org). Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LaRuby May', written in a cursive style.

Signed: LaRuby May