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SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
- **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
- **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
- **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?

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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

I am running for re-election as state representative because I have a passion for improving the lives of children and families in this state. I am effective voice for their needs and would like to continue the work that I have begun on their behalf.

As chair of the Human Services Committee, I am well positioned to do so, My appointment to the Institute for Public Policy also well positions me for this goal. In the last six years I have passed scores of legislation aimed at improving the lives of children and families. I took the lead in passing the Safe Baby Bottle Bill (bans the toxic chemical BPA in baby bottles, sippy cups, etc.) the Toxic Toys Bill, the Children's Mental Health Bill, legislation to help foster youth continue in higher education, and legislation focusing on helping children victimized in child prostitution.

I have also recognized the need for government reform and so took the lead in reforming the state's program for disabled persons formerly called GAU. The program, now entitled Disability Lifeline, is a service for adults who are temporarily disabled. The reforms focus on the need of the clients to actively participate in their own rehabilitation and on an effective public private partnership to quickly assess eligibility for federal assistance for those who are permanently disabled.

My environmental work is a natural extension of my work on behalf of children and families. I have been concerned about Climate Change and was the successful prime sponsor of the Clean Air Clean Fuels bill and the Electric Car Bill. My partnership with the Washington Toxics Coalition has lasted several years and resulted in the legislation discussed at the beginning of this section.

I also convened a group of over 70 stakeholders and state leaders who want to develop a comprehensive Children's Mental Health System in Washington. Related to good mental health is the development of solid social and emotional skills taught in our K-12 system. I am working to convince my colleagues that good social and emotional skills should be an important part of basic education. The Superintendent of Instruction has backed my efforts.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

I am a person who enjoys challenges, involvement, and leadership. Delving into issues, learning about all sides, encouraging win-win solutions are all activities that I love. That is why you see a host of activities on my attached resume. I founded TreeHouse and the Ballard Family Center. As a Board member of Reinvesting in Youth I took the lead on legislation that establishes a state system of reinvesting state dollars into local programs that provide effective prevention and early intervention to youth in the juvenile justice system. I was also a Board member of First Place and saw it as a natural extension of my role as Chair of Human Services.

I am an effective legislator who believes in the power of hard work. I took the lead on scores of successful bills in the last four years. I believe in treating my colleagues from both parties with respect, and in the power of teamwork. These are the keys to my success.

My colleagues have learned that I keep my promises and am reliable and honest. I am also very tenacious. I continue to work on passage of legislation, often several years, as long as I believe that it is important and necessary. My child neglect bill, known as "the Justice and Raiden Act" is an example of this.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

Three years ago, I passed the Children's Mental Health Bill, a complex piece of legislation that: establishes goals for the development of a comprehensive children's mental health system by 2012, provision of evidenced based training to be provided to practitioners who treat children, consultation for primary care physicians on treatment of mentally ill children, expansion of the pools of qualified practitioners, increasing the number of visits for which the state will pay, and development of wrap-around pilots in the state. I was successful the first year because I developed a very large stakeholder group which took on the hard work of lobbying for the legislation during a time of tight resources. I involved the group in the many drafts of the bill, was willing to compromise, and kept the stakeholders informed at every critical juncture.

This year I passed the Security Lifeline Bill which reformed the GAU program for people with temporary disabilities. I did extensive research into to program and met with community groups, line staff, administrators, advocates for the poor, etc. Utilizing that research I developed many drafts of the bill and worked with a broad stakeholder group for its passage. The legislation was changed many times during the session as I worked with the Senate and the Governor's office to perfect it. In the end, the legislation will save over \$20 million this biennium and will result in many more individuals qualifying for federal assistance.

Earlier in my career in the Legislature I was able to establish, and continue to the present, funding for drug affected babies and their mothers. I worked closely with members from both parties, and with stakeholders, and DSHS to craft and pass the legislation. The program has a comprehensive evaluation component and has shown significant results and cost effectiveness. It is these results that have saved the program even while others were being cut due to budget deficits.

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

These activities are listed in the resume which I am attaching. In addition to the employment section, you will see a section entitled, “ Outstanding Accomplishments” and one entitled “Additional Responsibilities”. Please refer to these sections for the answer.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

Legislators are problem solvers who assess need, develop proposed solutions to answer that need, and persuade their colleagues and stakeholders that the solutions are worth supporting. Each of these roles is significant because without them, it is usually impossible to pass good legislation. In additions, legislators must be responsible for difficult decisions on the budget. That must make sure that the budget represents the values important to Washington residents.

In addition to initiating and passing legislation, legislators must also work as mediators and problem solvers in their districts on non-legislative matters. For example, I have spent a great deal of time in the past working on Viaduct replacement issues. I played a key role in assuring that an expert, independent panel would review the top two Viaduct options.

Legislators also provide constituent services and educate the voters on important issues in their communities.