

FROM THE OFFICE OF
BARTLETT FOR ND SENATE

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James Bartlett (District 6 Senate Candidate) Responses to

2008 North Dakota Voters Guide Questions

(Comments limited to 125 words each)

HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

AARP's Position: At some point, North Dakotans will need supportive services to help with daily activities which they strongly prefer receiving in their homes and communities rather than the more costly nursing homes. However, government programs for long-term care are often geared toward institutions, making home and community-based care much harder to afford.

People covered under the Medicaid medically needy category may retain \$520 a month for living expenses. Because it is so difficult to pay all living expenses with just \$520, many individuals move to a nursing home where living and medical expenses are covered as part of the nursing home bill. AARP believes the allowable income under the Medicaid medically needy category needs to be increased so people can remain in their homes longer.

Question: Would you support or oppose increasing the amount of income that can be retained under the Medicaid medically needy category?

Answer:

I will support increased income allowances in the context of economic freedom by working to expose the inefficiencies of government involvement in health care. Medicaid should be terminated, that would allow individuals to keep all their income! Individuals, families, and private organizations are the appropriate providers and financers health care, not inefficient left-leaning government bureaucracies. Notice in the above AARP position that government is aiding the nursing home corporations. That is properly defined as Facism. Also, notice in the AARP statement that the effect of government involvement with health care is separating families and communities by design.

COORDINATION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

AARP'S Position: Most communities are faced with limited resources and must make difficult choices about how much and what types of transportation they can provide. Coordination of transportation, through partnerships among organizations, provides a means to better manage these limited resources. By reducing duplication and

inefficiency, coordination can improve transportation services and lead to enhanced mobility for older adults and the broader community.

Before addressing the gaps in our transportation system, we need to maximize the use of the resources we have. A regionalized system of coordination could grow into a statewide system that will give people, even in rural areas, the mobility they need to remain living in the community of their choice.

Question:

Would you support or oppose funding to develop pilot projects for coordinating transportation in two regions of the state?

Answer:

I oppose redistributing the wealth of tax payers to enable inefficient government to manage transportation services. This is the job of private business and the free market. If the need is really there, the entrepreneurs will notice without any help from the government. If the government initiates a program and bottle feeds it, it always dies and has a slow and expensive death. The government management of transportation is an implementation of the 6th Plank of the Communist Manifesto. I am against communism and for individual and economic liberty, therefore must oppose such projects.

TAX POLICY

AARP'S Position: North Dakota has a combination of revenue sources, including income taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes to fund government services. Income taxes are generally the most progressive of state taxes, in that people with higher income pay a higher proportion of income in taxes. Sales taxes take a higher proportion of income from low-income people than from high-income people. Property taxes can be the most burdensome for people whose incomes are not increasing as fast as the taxes, such as older and retired individuals.

AARP believes that tax revenue sources should distribute the tax burden according to people's ability to pay. Taxes should, to the extent possible, increase as income increases and be equal among those with equal resources.

Question:

Would you support or oppose a balanced tax policy that is based on taxpayer's ability to pay?

Answer:

I oppose a tax policy that robs from the rich and gives to the poor because stealing is wrong no matter who is being stolen from or who does the stealing (Exodus 20:15). This is foundational to private property rights. Taxes for each individual should be so low that even the poor can afford it. This could be done by eliminating all but a 2% sales tax with the corresponding right-sizing of government. Inflation is caused by the unconstitutional control of our money by the Federal Reserve. Close the Federal Reserve, return the coining of money to the US Treasury and there would be no inflation. Don't follow Karl Marx with "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

AARP'S Position: Consumers have a right to affordable access to such basic necessary services as utilities, telephones, electronic communications, financial products and services, and transportation without being misled, confused or frightened. The marketplace must be transparent, providing clear information to give consumers the opportunity to make informed choices. Regulatory agencies should have sufficient resources and authority to pursue their missions vigorously.

Issues often come before the legislature that impact consumers. Legislation regarding the operation of utilities and the power of the Public Service Commission to regulate utility prices, the rights of cellular phone users to make informed purchases, and transparency issues are often under discussion with strong lobbying from the business community.

Question:

How will you work to protect consumers if elected?

Answer:

The constitution does not say that people have “a right to affordable..?” The Declaration of Independence states that people have unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which the government should protect. I would protect consumers from the collaborations of big government and big health care business which both fleece the taxpayer at the end of life and even tend toward quickening the end of life through euthanasia for budgetary reasons. Encouraging the free-market, deleting laws which interrupt the free market, and quickly executing justice upon evildoers is the best way to protect the economic and health interests of each individual.

I oppose tax-funded government mandates to inform people of consumer truth they can learn in the library (Consumer Report).

I oppose the tax funding of government agents to usurp the role of the family and faith community in the protection of consumers in the free market.

Sincerely,

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