

WEBVTT

00:00:21.000 --> 00:00:41.000

Alright thanks Nicole, and good afternoon, everyone. As was mentioned, my name is Gabriel asked to borrow my pronouns are he/him/ell, and I currently represent district 39 as its state delegate in Annapolis, over the past three and a half years I've served on the House Appropriations Committee. And its public safety and administration subcommittee as well as a number of other caucuses delegations etc. And so over the past three and a half years. My goal and my focus has been how do we one really build democratic socialism, not just in this county but really in this state, and to how do we push democratic socialist policies that we know one are not just popular but I would benefit working class people and what allow us to be able to organize, you know with other organizations and groups on these issues and so I'm really proud of the work that we've done, and I'm going to obviously be talking a little bit more about that this evening as I'm sure some of you all may have questions for me but really good to be here, proud to be a member of the moko and Metro DSA chapter, and really looking forward to continuing the work with each and every one of you all to build to organize and to continue to put the DSA on the map.

00:01:52.000 --> 00:02:08.000

That's great. One question that I had immediately came up last weekend on our capital I'm just curious what your response with me, if people ask well well you know Gabe is an incumbent does even really need us for reelection

00:02:14.000 --> 00:02:22.000

Yeah, I mean, I absolutely need DSA. we absolutely need each other. I think we also need to recognize politically, what's taking place right now which is really, there's a concerted effort by those, you know centrist moderate conservative Democrats to sort of target progressive and leftist candidates, you see that at the federal at the state level Maryland is certainly no different, is when, as many of you all know, I boat with the Democratic caucus that probably percentage wise, 90%, I would say that 10% is where we differ not just not necessarily on the issue, but how far we go on that issue especially when we know we're capable of doing so much more. And so whether we're talking about raising the minimum wage to 15 an hour something that, you know, I tried to strengthen by including indexing amendment, as well as tip workers to working to slow down and even though we weren't successful the Johns Hopkins private police force bill to even passing Anton's law and pushing my colleagues and those who consider themselves progressives to go even further as it relates to police transparency and accountability so there's a lot of work that needs to be done and I have certainly not earned the favor of leadership, so to speak, and it's something that I wear as a badge of honor because ultimately you know we can keep saying that we're doing, and pursuing progressive policies and we're doing it in a very watered down conservative and centrist and moderate way. And so my goal is not just to ensure that we're fighting for those policies that benefit working class and oppressed people, but ensuring that we're going as far as I know we can and should go on

these issues right instead of really failing these important constituencies by pursuing something that's watered down, passing it, claiming a symbolic victory, but we're not really addressing the core of the issue right from fight for 15 to police accountability to even the environment right a number of us were pushing for a green new deal at the state level and instead, what we got was sort of like this, incremental approach to the environmental justice and climate action that we've been demanding right so we passed the CJ clean energy jobs act, and then the climate solutions act and so in essence what these are just pieces of a green New Deal. And so instead of us actually doing what you know movements and people are calling for us to do.

The approach is an incremental one I'm really important issues that matter to not just DSA our organization but our community partners as well. So yes, I say that to say, we got to ensure that we're getting members reelected it's really, really important that we're getting strong DSA members, and I say that, you know, as someone who's not just a proud democratic socialist but someone who believes in actually building and organizing with DSA. And so as I said earlier, I have not earned leadership favor. It is a badge of honor but it just means that we get to prove to them again.

Why district 39 not only supports me why district 39 supports the policies that we are fighting for and championing. And I think it's a real way to show not just leadership, but other folks who identifies progress is that it is possible for you to be unapologetic and to challenge leadership, and to also run and be successful. As far as their reelection.

00:06:13.000 --> 00:06:19.000

Great, thank you and I see that Ingrid F is on stack.

00:06:22.000 --> 00:06:51.000

Hi there, I had a question. You mentioned, not being in leadership's favor. And I wondered what you feel is the best approach to support socialism in elected office when leadership controls so many things, you know, including how bills can progress. Yeah, I think so. So, one we have to look at the issue and we have to look at Maryland.

00:06:58.000 --> 00:07:07.000

Maryland is in a state where we are fighting against republicans right on issues that are important to our communities. Really the fight is and I tell people all the time if anyone tells you that, you know, they want to go to Annapolis to fight republicans and Republican agenda don't vote for them because that's just not the reality in Annapolis right in 2018, Maryland became, you know, in terms of the Democratic Party supermajority in the General Assembly we have numbers that the Democratic caucus on the hill our NBA right in terms of getting things past is not that we aren't taking up progressive issues, it's the incremental, it's the moderate it's the conservative, it's the piecemeal approach that we take to important issues and instead of saying we're going to address it in a comprehensive and really radical way which is to get to the root of the issue center communities most impacted, instead of us doing that, what we're doing is we're taking this what we're going to pass this piecemeal, and I think the response to that is us communities, organizing and coalition, the FC, obviously is a part of many Coalition's, but we

can't do it alone. Right. And so, you know, ensuring that we're building that movement outside of the General Assembly to apply pressure on folks and not just move on these issues right but to ensure that we're doing it in a way that is substantive and comprehensive and not watered down and moderate right you know I'll just remind you of, you know, a democratic socialist Who, who, who I suppose I subscribe to his school of thought and that's Dr King and he said you know he warned us about, you know, moderates right particularly white moderates but moderates right and just this sort of being comfortable with the status quo and not wanting to pursue justice in a real and meaningful way. And how damaging and harmful that is to impacted communities. And so I think our goal should always be how do we organize and in multiracial multi ethnic coalition of folks to ensure that we're applying pressure and we're also electing and reelecting strong DSA members that's that's that's that's really critical.

00:09:25.000 --> 00:09:34.000

Great, thank you. I see Larry is on stack.

00:09:34.000 --> 00:09:55.000

Larry M from over in a Greenbelt Maryland coming over here, like to hear what you're doing in Montgomery county. I just wanted to ask a couple of questions because I think it might be a little different from one another. One is, you know, working people are really always hurting, but had been at the home, and in particular end of this covert crisis this economic aftermath and just the ongoing function of our capitalist economy of, you know, this coming session.

And as you look forward to your election you know what's the what's the issue that you think can most mobilized both folks in your district and around the state. In terms of building the community power, talk about, you know, and also what is the one that you think we collectively can put leadership in a position where you know they have to hear a little bit more of a progressive line go for those bigger solutions. I'm just curious to hear your thinking about that because sometimes issue choice matters in terms of strategy. We want to strategize think so. Thank you.

00:11:15.000 --> 00:11:23.000

Yeah, so I think what we have is a number of issues that are popular with Marylanders right the electorate in Maryland, whether it's cannabis legalization, we saw some polling done on police transparency and accountability that showed the support, etc.

00:11:37.000 --> 00:11:52.000

I think to your question how do we organize on an issue I think that's difficult to say which issue because I think there are a lot of issues that really quick we can organize communities on that would allow us to not just build community but bill power power as well. I would say, some of the things that we have outstanding that we need to do. certainly police transparency and accountability.

There is this perception that somehow we have done some far reaching historic police reform

legislation. And don't get me wrong, it is the first of this that we have gone on the issue but it is not the furthest that we could have and what communities were asking for us to go and that's part again, of my frustration right because, you know, as some folks know I was on the work group for police accountability in Maryland and one of the things I made clear to leadership was that if I'm going to be a part of this that we're going to address the issue holistically and we're not doing piecemeal and I was a short of that. And then we see how politics play out and how folks end up pursuing again this piecemeal half ass approach to a very important issue that is also important to a very loyal constituency of of the Democratic Party right. So I think there are a number of issues, I think, a green new deal at the state level is something that we could be organizing around we are still taking an incremental approach to environmental policy and environmental justice.

00:13:13.000 --> 00:13:32.000

The sunrise movement I think has, along with a number of other folks DSA greens, to not just raise awareness around a green new deal at the state level but what that looks like right and we see other folks are pursuing that and other states. We have to organize to ensure that we're not continuing to take a piecemeal approach to green new deal right if we're going to pass a clean energy jobs act if we're going to pass the climate solutions back. Let's go all the way and see how we can get to adjust transition how we can have, you know green jobs how we can have a green new deal at the state level and stop with this piecemeal approach when literally, our lives and that a future generations are pretty much on the line right you know I was born and raised in what is considered a set of small island developing state in the Caribbean. And one of the issues with that is that we, you know, low income people of color, folks that live in coastal places we are on the front lines of the impacts of climate change and we know this to be true, right. So, how do we organize around a green new deal at the state level, how do we organize around the outstanding work of police transparent police accountability and ending police violence, how do we organize around the fact that Maryland is a state that incarcerate more black people between the ages of 18 and 35 than any other state in the Union.

00:14:47.000 --> 00:15:01.000

How do we organize around the fact that we still spend more money on policing and incarceration and we do on higher education. Right, how do we organize around the fact that we still don't have paid leave right here in Maryland, right and that's something that's going to be coming up next session with the time to Care Act, that's been introduced for quite a few years right so there's a good bit of issues that we can organize around.

I think those pocketbook issues so to speak those those kitchen table issues that people really care about are the issues that we can really not just organize but get more working class, folks involved in our movement right because, you know, we know we live in the wealthiest state, but there's a lot of people struggling and there's a lot of poverty, even here in Maryland so it's a good bit of work that we still need to do and a lot of issues we could organize around.

00:15:47.000 --> 00:15:50.000

Okay, great. Alex is on stack.

00:15:50.000 --> 00:16:05.000

Yeah, thanks Nicole and thanks Gabe, and everyone I really appreciated those questions about how we navigate situations strategically when the odds are stacked against us while also maintaining principled positions. I especially appreciate it your answers gave about the harm that incrementalism can have, especially to the communities most impacted. And this like struggle between principle and strategy is something I've been thinking a lot about recently just in terms of the work I've been most involved with in our chapter which is our BDS and Palestine solidarity work.

And, luckily, everyone seeking our endorsement who got an endorsement resolution does support BDS but I wanted to dive a bit deeper into BDS in Palestine than what we saw on the questionnaire.

So I have like a multi part question, but what are your views on Zionism. And also, why do you support the BDS movement and how do you see your role in the Maryland State House to advance the cause for Palestinian Liberation.

00:16:57.000 --> 00:17:21.000

Sure. So, as far as the support for BDS I think we are very much in a moment similar to the apartheid that we saw in South Africa, in the 90s to organize around boycotting divesting and sanctioning, quite frankly, I don't even want to say government because it's successive Israeli governments, right you know even though Benjamin Netanyahu is no longer Prime Minister, the very same dehumanizing harmful persecution is still taking place under a new Israeli Prime Minister, and we know it's deeper than that right it's more than one individual and so we're talking about a state that not only doesn't recognize the humanity of Palestinians, but also is a state that, you know, you see, violence against even Ethiopians living in Israel, right, and it speaks to not just you know anti blackness being global, but it speaks to the work that we need to do to ensure that we're building BDS movement and each and every one of our states to show to ensure that we're doing our part to hold really a government accountable, that is being backed by our government.

00:18:24.000 --> 00:18:40.000

And we can't deny the fact that a majority of military equipment from the United States is sent to Israel, we can't deny the fact that there are some, I believe, including in montgomery county police departments and sheriff's office that have this arrangement of training with Israeli forces etc. So it's really deeper, and I think what we can do is not just raise the humanitarian issue raise the legal issue that is taking place right now.

00:18:58.000 --> 00:19:15.000

But we can also do similar to what took place with apartheid South Africa, we can ensure that our governments or state governments or federal government are not supporting or not arming

and are not in any way perpetuating this violence against Palestinians.

00:19:15.000 --> 00:19:31.000

I believe that Palestine should and will one day be free and I think we as an organization should be very explicit in our support and very clear to candidates you know where we stand on the issue as well because, you know, previous folks, you know I talked about Dr. King earlier you know where he stood and and so many other folks on the issue of Palestine.

00:19:37.000 --> 00:20:01.000

And I think we also have a responsibility as members of the DSA, as democratic socialists to call this out to support BDS movement, and to demand that position of people who are not just members of our organization but seek in our organizations endorsement.

00:20:01.000 --> 00:20:07.000

Great. Thank you. Next up I have David Mott on stack.

00:20:07.000 --> 00:20:13.000

Yeah, hi. Hi Good how are you are you doing well.

00:20:13.000 --> 00:20:24.000

Good. So it's I just want to, I think you might have missed the report by by Robert Stubblefield, about the protest African cemetery coalition. I know that you spoken with Marcia and stuff. But if you don't know what we're now at a new place charger ventures has out of the game.

00:20:33.000 --> 00:20:42.000

Sorry, Mark, average has asked for negotiations on December 2. So I just want this is not really so much a question but just sort of to get your reaction to this.

00:20:42.000 --> 00:20:55.000

You know, it's sort of the way I look at the settlement is everybody's got to put something in the pot. When that includes the legislature. That includes the county, and includes hoc and negotiations has to determine what that is but it's going to need some real political pressure to settle this thing.

00:20:58.000 --> 00:21:13.000

And I know you are 100% in, in, in support of this effort, but just want you're thinking about like how do we get, you know, like the legislative piece of this thing done particularly among the montgomery county representatives who, for the most part with the except for maybe one or two of you, you and Vaughn Stewart have sat it out, and they've sat it out right on sidelines.

00:21:20.000 --> 00:21:30.000

And so how do we move people what you know if you have any initial thinking about it be helpful to figure this out because there's got to be money.

00:21:30.000 --> 00:21:45.000

You know, this is part of preparations you guys will start now. And both from the county from a GLC and from the legislature to finish this thing only getting possession of the land, but figuring out how to begin to fund a real memorial and and real museum museum to that to to to that community there so I just throw that back to you and I would say that, you know, Gabe was in conversation with Marcia he he did.

00:22:00.000 --> 00:22:09.000

He said he's willing to go he's willing to sign our letter. Regarding the court case he's the only one who did although we got some bites from others but he's the only one who did.

00:22:09.000 --> 00:22:27.000

I appreciate that. David thanks so much for the question and yes so the the suit that they filed the amateurs brief, I am the only person in the montgomery county delegation that has signed on to it, even though they've asked, you know, elected officials for folks who aren't familiar, they, they managed to get a recent favorable ruling in terms of of halt operations and whatnot. And I'll also add I did see Marcia and Reverend out of bio, a couple of days ago were at a rally in front of the Cuban embassy around the embargo. So we talked a little bit about it and she was telling me that that they were in the midst of negotiations, and that.

00:23:00.000 --> 00:23:14.000

Yeah, that they're in the midst of negotiations and that she would like for me to be a part of that and so we're continuing conversations. I'm trying to see how I can show solidarity as much as I can as folks know this is an issue that, you know, it's

00:23:14.000 --> 00:23:20.000

not just about you know justice what is right and

00:23:20.000 --> 00:23:24.000

African people and enslaved African people in this county.

00:23:24.000 --> 00:23:40.000

But it is also an issue that we need to see more folks stepping up on particularly people that represent that area and that's district 16 that's district, one at large, all of the folks but I think DSA can continue to show solidarity and I think, you know, it's looking like the, and you know this David there is, there is a particular portion of the land that you know like the developers initially said look, this is obviously African burial ground going to give it to the BACC, then the county planning board game developers this like sweet deal and they ended up like, you know, rethinking about it and just all sorts of crazy stuff so I think what we can and should continue to do is just show up and ensure that we're getting negotiations, taking place and good faith and we're getting a remedy that is just for the community. Right, so I appreciate you bringing that up and Yes.

00:24:28.000 --> 00:24:34.000

Great. Next on stack we have Adam.

00:24:34.000 --> 00:24:38.000

Yep. Okay, thank you.

00:24:38.000 --> 00:24:46.000

And hello Gabe How you doing, I had a few questions to try to split them off really quick.

00:24:46.000 --> 00:25:05.000

So my first thought. My first question was, what are your thoughts on monocultural farming, If any thoughts on mobile, monocultural farming and its impact on the environment, as opposed to alternatives to farming methods like permaculture and things like that. Um, my second question was if we could, we get your thoughts on like how you would define say mutual aid and direct action.

And then my last question is, what are some major blocks that you've seen at least while you've been within the state legislature that has sort of hindered progress on a lot of these like democratic socialist policies, especially ones that you have putto the floor, or or I should say proposed.

00:25:51.000 --> 00:26:00.000

Um, yeah ok so I'll try to answer questions as I remember it as far as agriculture. I am no expert on farming, don't profess to be but what I do believe is that there needs to one of the solutions to food deserts, that we see in a lot of black and brown and low income communities, one of the solutions to food deserts is encouraging more community farms more urban farms and educating folks on how they can grow their own food and I think we need to do it in a very conscientious way one that recognizes that we are definitely tied to this earth and we have to take care of it because it does provide something for us.

00:26:41.000 --> 00:26:56.000

Many things right and so you know whatever our farming practices, how do we ensure that we're not just able to feed ourselves, but we're not ultimately destroying the soil we're not ultimately destroying our communities and the planet.

So that's where I would say my agriculture policy is, You know, we need to do more to address food deserts and we can do it in a very conscientious way to your other question, a bow.

00:27:15.000 --> 00:27:24.000

I'm sorry I forgot what your second question was, it was a, I was hoping you could define your give your own personal definition about mutual aid.

00:27:24.000 --> 00:27:40.000

So, I mean, mutual aid to me. Simply put, is each and every one of us as a community, taking responsibility for caring for each other. That's simply what it is you know people try to bring it you know to the, to the, to the product right reduce it to the product issue which is the you know the exchange of of resources of goods, etc. But to me, mutual aid is so much more than me just giving you something that, you know, you need, you know, it's about providing community and it's about understanding that ultimately we have the responsibility to each and every one of each other right and that's what mutual aid means to me the opposite of me does not want its community.

And so we got to step up and we got to ensure that you know we're understanding mutual aid as a way of us taking responsibility for caring for each other, direct action to me, anything that you know i mean action.

You know solidarity. These words are verbs right and so I think to me direct action is any kind of an action that is directed to what's in coalition. Right, directed towards advancing a mutual and collective goal that ultimately gets us all free.

That's my understanding of direct action and I think you may or may not have had a third question I'm not sure.

00:28:54.000 --> 00:29:02.000

Oh yeah. Third question was, as a, as an incumbent, and as a current legislator in the state legislature. What are some major blocks that you've seen at least as opposed to it at least in opposition to sort of progressive policies that you or other progressive politicians have been trying to push in the state legislature.

00:29:19.000 --> 00:29:30.000

Um, I think, I think there is there's a number of things that I attribute to that one is, you know, one is is that Annapolis is not democratic. Simply put, power is centralized within this one office within leadership. One person or few people decide certain things and it's very much of a, if I were to describe it, a sheep culture and a sheep mentality in Annapolis, and so when we talk about, you know, disagreeing when we talk about offering an alternative when we talk about offering and amendments are calling for the strengthening of a particular piece of legislation.

00:30:06.000 --> 00:30:20.000

All of this is breaking away from the norm because the norm is, here's the issue we're working on. Here's this bar is we're going to go on it. And if everyone votes for it we can all get a symbolic victory, but this is as far as we're going to go on the issue. Right. And so I think one we need to ensure that we're electing strong progressives and leftists. And I think that's really, really important because these past three and a half years so showed me that there are a lot of people who like the title or this Bonaire of progressivism or being viewed as leftist, but when it ultimately comes down to taking a stand standing up agreeing disagreeing saying no, I'm not

going to vote for this or no I'm not going to support that or no I believe we need to go further or. or we shouldn't be doing this anymore. You don't see a lot of that in Annapolis, and I think it's important for us in order to change that culture we got to organize outside.

00:31:04.000 --> 00:31:24.000

But we definitely have to elect stronger progressive and leftists and folks who are willing to work in coalition to get things done on things don't happen because, you know, again, leadership, and wanting to take sort of this incremental approach. And that's really the frustration for me.

00:31:31.000 --> 00:31:36.000

All right, thank you.

00:31:53.000 --> 00:32:13.000

Thank you Hi Gabe, um, as you know, we have worked diligently with you in the past, around this tax loophole for country clubs, and we understand that, you know, delegate Kaiser will no longer be with the Ways and Means Committee, am I am I correct on that. Yeah. And I'm wondering, I'm wondering if you know what you feel about, you know, trying to take this up again if that's something you might be willing to do. Maybe our chances are a little better yet, well, I will say, you know, yes I certainly plan on continuing to introduce the bill, and continuing to point out this glaring disparity this inequity this cooperate welfare.

00:32:48.000 --> 00:32:51.000

This sort of coddling of the rich, absolutely.

00:32:51.000 --> 00:33:07.000

I think, apart from that there are a number of other things that we need to be pushing to as far as our tax code, because there's so much Maryland has a very regressive it's one of the states with it with regressive tax codes. And part of the problem is, is that we aren't willing to have that uncomfortable conversation, but to also pursue those policies that would actually generate the money to fund these programs that we're saying we want to do on our popular with the people, but it also doesn't hold the wealthy and corporations in our state accountable for their fair share of taxes so yes I'll continue to introduce it, but really want to work with DSA on some other tax policies that i think you know we can really put into into to bring great attention to just the overall regressiveness of Maryland's tax code. But yes, certainly planning on doing that Susan and, you know, looking forward to it.

00:34:01.000 --> 00:34:03.000

I see Diane has raised her hand. Go ahead.

00:34:05.000 --> 00:34:17.000

Hi. Thank you. Nicole. Thanks, Gabe. And my question concerns delegate Kumar Barve

And the specific question is how do we prepare and what's our best response when he

continues screaming and yelling about maghaberry counties, quite reasonable restrictions on large scale solar corporate solar facilities that want to come into Montgomery County's agricultural reserve, which we did have our council, as you know, the council majority enacted a compromise put forward by the farmers and agricultural stakeholders.

00:34:53.000 --> 00:35:08.000

That was a big gift on our part, and solar will be able to come into the agri reserve but they have to go through a special exception process that delegate Barve the corporate solar industry doesn't like.

00:35:08.000 --> 00:35:10.000

Thank you.

00:35:10.000 --> 00:35:30.000

I'm simply put, you know, I'm not not not being as familiar as you are with, with the issue, etc. Um, you know, I would just suggest, and that's not to say y'all aren't doing this right now but building an even bigger coalition and with a focus on district 17, and getting folks from his district, particularly environmental activists, you know, solar energy advocates, you know, or just folks who want to be more engaged.

00:35:43.000 --> 00:35:44.000

Right.

00:35:44.000 --> 00:36:05.000

And meeting with him to, you know, if it comes to it. Taking direct action right but meeting with them engaging his office and ensuring that you know he is able to see his constituents and these are the folks who are saying what it is that that you're seeing right now, we've encountered a similar issue on just cause eviction, which is something I support and I'd like to see us finally pass and, you know, there are some folks in the delegation who don't necessarily support that, you know, or are on the fence about it and you know who they are and so we're trying to organize as well in District 17 to see how we can get more folks and tenants right to be, you know, making these calls and and doing this kind of engagement so keep at it and however

00:36:41.000 --> 00:36:48.000

I can help and support, you know, just feel free to keep me in the loop. Okay.

00:36:48.000 --> 00:36:56.000

Okay, thank you so much good course. Thanks Dan, thanks Joe.

00:36:56.000 --> 00:37:09.000

Well I have one more question. Gabe I know that passing Anton's Law was one of your major priorities and thankfully that passed. I was wondering if you have a next thing that's going to be your major push.

So keep an eye out we are not done with police accountability, Sen. Jill Carter and I, who is also a DSA member I believe she and I will be working on a number of things.

A number of pieces of legislation related to police accountability and a number of other areas prosecutorial accountability, etc.

00:37:38.000 --> 00:37:54.000

I will also say that and that's part of the reason why I disagreed with the leadership, and I stood on the House floor, and not only offered the amendments that the Coalition for the Maryland Coalition for justice and police accountability supported,

But what I'd like to see as part of the package is because we have this tendency the General Assembly at least has this tendency that whenever we address an issue or believe that we've addressed an issue we're not coming back date until the next five six maybe 10 years, and police violence is, you know, incrementalism is not the approach to the immediate problem of police violence and so we have to continue organizing because we have not transform public safety.

We have not, you know, done as much as we could to really build that trust and build our public safety systems what we have done is made some tweaks.

You know, and made a couple of tweaks and certainly past use of force and body cameras, etc. But we didn't go as far as we need to. So I'm going to continue doing that, I know leadership is certainly would like to see me not come back to Annapolis and that's why it's even more important that you know, we not only get me back to Annapolis but do so with like a strong reelection showing, because there's a lot of work that we need to do around there some other things that I'm working on that I'll be pushing them on is

I would like to see a green new deal at the state level it is frustrating that we continue to take parts of the green New Deal, and pass it, but we're not looking to not willing to look at it as a green new deal as a whole, right, so we're not going to pass the green new deal but we'll, we'll take a couple elements of it and we'll put it in the clean energy jobs back and we'll pass it right you know when we're not going to pass the green new deal but we're going to take some elements of it, we're going to put it in the climate solutions and pass it. And we just got to stop this right, like, let's just take a holistic approach to environmental justice, and that's going to be my focus over the next few years.

00:39:54.000 --> 00:40:05.000

Also universal basic income, it's still something that I will be pushing up decided, you know that I'll also be introducing another UBII bill.

But in addition to my standalone universal basic income Bill \$500, a month to every Maryland to

meet their basic needs, funded by our state, very archaic and regressive state tax, which, according to the Maryland Department of legislative services would be able to generate the money to provide the kind of a seed funding to to to actually have a guaranteed income program going to continue pushing that, but I'll be introducing another bill that provides universal base or guaranteed income to children aging out of foster care system. And that's particularly important because, you know, there are over 440 something thousand kids in our foster care system in Maryland.

Every year we see thousands of kids aging out of the foster care system with not only the community, without any community support familial support like financial support as well. And I think an excellent way we can sort of build out the guaranteed income program is providing guaranteed income to every child that is aging out of foster care system so that they're able to meet their basic needs so that's going to be some things continuing with collective bargaining.

You know, going to continue with some other social justice LGBTQ+ issues around our seniors, so really excited over the next few years, and really looking forward to, to getting reelected and getting into more good trouble.

00:41:39.000 --> 00:41:47.000

Right. And I see Abel has a question and then I think we're going to move on to Max.

00:41:47.000 --> 00:41:53.000

I understand what you were saying about incrementalism and I saw it with end medical debt bill. I would like to hear about your opinion about, you know, revisiting that although, you know, and doing it better. That bill was amazing when it started, and then it got chipped away. And another thing is, could you tell us a little bit more of what you want to work with the essay on over the next year, along, you know, alongside your campaign. Is there anything that you want to us know, to work on together, we, after you reelection.

00:42:35.000 --> 00:42:52.000

Yeah, so, to your first question on medical debt, I co sponsored that bill, I plan on co sponsoring and again I think it's really unfortunate that we haven't been able to pass such an important piece of legislation such as medical debt.

You know, if people aren't able to pay for healthcare at the point of of treatment or, or even after Right. I mean, we should definitely be not just forgiving those debts, but, building a healthcare system that does not create these medical debts, and that's the problem, right, we have not passed, we do not have universal health care here in Maryland we have not passed single payer Medicare for All I have introduced the bill, along with the National Nurses united and the progressive healthcare coalition and our revolution Maryland we've been pushing.

Since 2019 and this bill has been introduced before it was supported by one candidate in the

2018 gubernatorial election but we're continuing to push for the healthy Maryland that that would bring about single payer Medicare for all cover folks. And that ultimately is the solution because we're going to continue forgiving medical debt which I think is the right thing to do when we think about healthcare and especially it being a right, but we have to get to the root of the issue, and the reality of it is because we do not guarantee healthcare in the wealthiest state in the Union, where over 400,000 people were uninsured before the pandemic and now over half a million people uninsured since the pandemic in the wealthiest state in the Union where we spend a third of our budget, Maryland spend a third of its state's budget on health care. We can certainly do more and we can provide a better healthcare system that doesn't produce the kind of an outcomes that you're talking about where we have medical debt where people are saddled with debt where they can pay, and where, you know, you have institutions garnishing going after them and harassing them, but quite frankly, wanting healthcare at the point of access so that's my thoughts on it and then lastly around what I would like to work with DSA on I mean, I've been working with, you know, my chapter MoCo DSA on a number of issues I think what I'd like to continue to work with DSA on is the issues that I've been working on over the past and certainly more right how do we get fair free transit in montgomery county. How do we get universal basic income, how do we get universal basic income of guaranteed income for kids, aging out of the foster foster care system in Maryland, how do we get a green new deal at the state level, how do we get housing justice I mean there's so many issues that I care deeply about so I don't want to, you know, say, Well, I'd love to work with DSA on this or that issue because I think, as, as democratic socialists, our goal should always be you know how are we aligning with oppressed communities, and there are so many issues that we can be working on, and I'm excited to work with DSA and all of you on all of them.

00:45:50.000 --> 00:46:02.000

Thank you. Thank you so much for joining us, Gabe, um, do you have any more closing thoughts before we switch over appreciate each and every one of y'all Thank you all so very much.

00:46:02.000 --> 00:46:09.000

Love My DSA family we still got work that we need to do. This is certainly not over with. We have to continue building we got to continue organizing our community organizing our resources. So, ultimately we can organize power. And so I'm excited and I really need folks help because I know for a fact that leadership is certainly looking at district 39 and there's some other folks who would not like to see this good troublemaker here, but I'll tell you this, we're going to continue being here And a big part of that is going to be my DSA family so counted on each and every one of you all to not just contribute whatever you can. You know, we do not take cooperate pack donations I don't take developer money.