

Andom

Democrat for Congress | NY-16

Andom Ghebreghiorgis, Primary Challenger for Congressional Seat in NY-16, Announces Mental Health & Disability Policy

May 26, 2020—Andom Ghebreghiorgis, Primary Challenger against Eliot Engel for the Congressional seat in NY-16, has announced an extensive mental health and disability rights platform. A detailed action plan is included. Candidates frequently do not have mental health and disability rights platforms, and this inclusion demonstrates Ghebreghiorgis' commitment to all communities in the 16th District.

The full platform can be read here:

<https://www.andomforny.com/mental-health-disability-policy>

“People with disabilities are the nation’s largest minority group, but, like for many minority groups, their needs, concerns, and voices are often excluded. As a former special education teacher, I have front-line experience with what is and is not provided to children with disabilities,” said Andom Ghebreghiorgis. “Simply staffing additional guidance counselors at the schools I taught in would have made a world of positive difference in my students’ lives. Establishing and funding support for those with disabilities and mental illness is vital, especially for my former students when they transition out of the school system. We must reorient our thinking, our planning, and our interventions to ensure that we center people with disabilities so that our society is more equitable and accessible for all.”

Highlights in the platform include safeguarding the Americans with Disabilities Act; fully-funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);

increasing funding for culturally-specific mental health research; investing in improved community crisis services; regulating insurance companies to protect the needs of all Americans; treating addiction and substance abuse as a health issue; and training law enforcement and first responders to de-escalate situations involving mental health crises.

About Andom Ghebregiorgis

Andom Ghebregiorgis is a first-generation American of Eritrean descent from Mount Vernon, NY. He is running for Congress in NY's 16th District because he could no longer reconcile the disinvestment in the communities he grew up and taught in with the trillions of dollars the US wasted on forever wars and unnecessary prisons. Andom graduated from Yale with degrees in Political Science and Economics and CCNY with a master's in secondary special education. He worked at the Robin Hood Foundation after college, and then he became a NYC Teaching Fellow in 2009. He taught MS special education at a high-needs public school in the Williams Bridge section of the Bronx, was a special education coordinator/ELA teacher at The Equity Project in Washington Heights, and taught English Writing at a Quaker school in the West Bank. Andom is active within the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and the Eritrean human rights organization One Day Seyoum.

Andom's campaign doesn't accept donations from corporate PACs. **To learn about Andom's platform, visit AndomforNY.com.**

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