



## **2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House**

Candidate Name: Jim Keady

Campaign Address: 1120A Third Ave. Spring Lake, NJ 07762

E-mail Address: jim@jimkeady.com

Office for which you are running: US House of Representatives, NJ-04

Date of Election: Primary- 6/5/2018 General 11/6/2018

Campaign Team Member: Jennifer Fluharty

Phone: 732-786-3251 Fax: n/a

Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) was founded in 2004 to transform the Democratic Party and our country. We seek to build a party and government controlled by citizens, not corporate elites - with policies that serve the broad public interest, not just private interests. As a grassroots PAC, PDA operates inside the Democratic Party, and outside in movements for peace and justice.

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

## The Congressional Progressive Caucus

**Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to immediately join the Congressional Progressive Caucus?**

**Yes**       **No**      If not, why not?

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## Lobbyist

**Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to NOT become a paid lobbyist for at least 5 years after you leave Congress?**

**Yes**       **No**      If not, why not?

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## PDA Issues

PDA focuses on fundamental issues of concern to voters. The questions are grouped, but all issues are equally important. Your answers to the questions below will be used to help determine whether to endorse you in the race for this office.

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

## Notice to Candidate:

The questions below refer to legislation introduced by bill number in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. By checking YES as your answer, you pledge that, if elected, you will immediately co-sponsor the reintroduced version of these bills in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### Presidential Fitness

**H.R. 1987** To establish the Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Rep. Jamie Raskin

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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### Healthcare:

*Millions of Americans have no reliable access to health care and millions more have inadequate or overly expensive coverage. Despite spending twice as much as other developed nations on health care, our system performs poorly. Private U.S. insurance gatekeepers soak up one-third of expenditures. Pharmaceutical interests overcharge Americans by avoiding price competition.*

**H.R. 676** Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Conyers

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 771** Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance

**Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Lee

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

**H.R. 242** Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Peter Welch

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 1776** Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Jan Schakowsky

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 947** Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (The Family Act) of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Rosa DeLauro

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 934** Personal Drug Importation Fairness Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Keith Ellison

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## War and Peace

***Terrorism should be treated as a crime, not as a pretext for war and global military expansion. Nuclear weapons are too dangerous to serve the strategic interests of any country and must be abolished. Initiatives to promote peace, disarmament, and the rule of international law will allow the US military budget to return to the 1998 peacetime level. We must bring our troops home to their families and redirect wasteful military spending to reinvest in America.***

**H.R. 1111** Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Lee

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 1229** Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Lee

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 608** Stop Arming Terrorists Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 4867** No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Ro Khana

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 669** Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Ted Lieu

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## **Global Warming/The Environment**

***Environmental degradation and global warming threaten human civilization. Science conclusively demonstrates that global warming results from human activity. Greed and corporate power dominate US policy imposing a nearsighted focus on short term profits instead of serving the welfare of future generations of Americans***

**H.R. 3671** Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act (OFF Act)

**Sponsor:** Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 3314** 100 by '50 Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. Jared Polis

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 2242** Keep it in the Ground Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. Jared Huffman

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## **Election Integrity:**

***Big-money domination threatens our election system. Incumbents are unfairly insulated by district gerrymandering. Voters face political and racial obstacles to voting and getting their votes counted. Digital voting systems***

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018**

**Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

***and internet voting are vulnerable to error and manipulation and defy verification. Only an auditable paper ballot can protect our right to vote.***

**HR 2840** Automatic Voter Registration Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. David Cicilline

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**HJ Res. 74** Constitutional Right to Vote  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Mark Pocan

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**HR 1044** Same Day Registration Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Keith Ellison

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**HR 607** The Voter Access Protection Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Keith Ellison

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 12** Voter Empowerment Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. John Lewis

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

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**H.R. 787** Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations and Early (SIMPLE) Voting Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Steve Cohen

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not?? (50 word limit)**

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### **Economic and Social Justice:**

*The enormous wealth disparity between the top 1% and the rest of America is an unsustainable economic and social injustice. Will you work for an economic recovery that employs all those willing and able, that houses all those needing shelter, and that imposes the cost based on the ability to pay.*

**H.R. 1144** Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Keith Ellison

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not?? (50 word limit)**

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**H.R. 15** Raise The Wage Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

**Yes**      **X No**      **If not, why not?? (50 word limit)**

I support a \$15/hour federal minimum wage. Large corporations should institute it immediately. For Main Street businesses like my family's, minimum wage legislation should have custom parameters for timeline and implementation based on local market and number of employees. Were that part of this bill, I would support it.

**R. 1000** Jobs for All Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. John Conyers

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not?? (50 word limit)**

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**



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**H.R. 1902** Social Security Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. John Larson

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 1114** Social Security Expansion Act  
**Sponsor:** **Rep. Peter DeFazio**

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 40** Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. John Conyers

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 4396** ME TOO Congress Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Jackie Speier

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

**H.R. 4152** Fair Employment Protection Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Rosa DeLauro

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**Do you support, and would you pledge to author and introduce legislation in the House of Representatives identical to current Senate bill as shown below:**

**S.2165** The Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Bernie Sanders

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**Do you support, and would you pledge to author and introduce legislation in the House of Representatives identical to current Senate bill as shown below:**

**S.2095** Assault Weapons Ban of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Dianne Feinstein

**Yes**       **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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### **EMERGENCY AID FOR NATURAL DISASTERS**

The climate change-intensified natural disasters of 2017 have laid bare the federal government's current response as both politicized and racist. How would you identify and legislatively fix underlying structural flaws in federal disaster relief and preparedness funding to ensure more timely, equitable, and effective federal responses to future events? (No more than 250 words)

I saw firsthand the devastation of Hurricane Sandy here in New Jersey. I also saw what happened when local politicians such as then-governor Christine were asleep at the wheel while devastated homeowners were waiting for their relief from federal agencies like FEMA. I also saw with my own eyes the plight of

### **PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018 Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

the people of Puerto Rico, who were not treated like the rest of their fellow Americans thanks to the racist biases in our administration's response in their time of need. So these issues are near and dear to my heart, both as a Jersey Shore native and as a human being who fights for justice. When elected, I will push for policies that do not make natural disasters into man-made catastrophes by ignoring the disproportionate needs of the poor and already-marginalized. Part of this can be remedied through bureaucratic changes that streamline the release of funds where they're needed most in times of crisis. (Incidentally, the incumbent I'm planning to unseat has introduced recently-adopted changes that send that crucial money to rebuilding churches instead of homes and public infrastructure, which is not only a waste of funds but also a dangerous breach of the separation of church and state.) However, addressing environmental justice more broadly means addressing racist housing policy that keeps poor people in communities vulnerable to both natural disasters and corporate-enabled contamination. Economic justice policies to remedy this will be a crucial part of the long-term solution.

## **Corporate Rule**

***Big corporations and banks dominant our political process, spending billions to lobby for programs against the public interest, and to privatize public services for profit. This erodes the middle class, destroys vital services, increases poverty, and undermines our nation. Congress must work to return our government to the people, improve services, stand up to corporate lobbyists, and stop the privatization of public services. We need a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not people and that money does not equal speech.***

**H.R. 2585**    21st Century Glass-Steagall Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:**    Rep. Michael Capuano

**X Yes**            **No**                    **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**HJ Res 88**    Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations  
**Sponsor:**    Rep. Jim McGovern

**X Yes**            **No**                    **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

**HJ Res 31** Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections  
**Sponsor:** Ted Deutch

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## Mass Criminalization

*The United States houses 25% of the world's inmates despite having only 5% of the world's population. The prison industrial complex has a vested interest in keeping people locked up. The growth of private, for-profit prisons has placed incarceration beyond public view. The administration of justice system is prejudiced against the poor and minorities.*

**H.R. 3227** Justice Is Not For Sale Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Raul Grijalva

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 1498** End Racial Profiling Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. John Conyers

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 65** Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (RAISE Act)  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018**  
**Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## Equality Issues

*The belief in equality, including religious equality, is a part of the founding documents of our nation and an important part of our national identity. Equality still has not been achieved by most groups in this country. We hope and expect that our endorsed Candidates will sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or support legislation that furthers the reach of equality to any and all groups seeking equal status.*

**HJ Res 53**      Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Jackie Speier

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 1869**      Paycheck Fairness  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Rosa DeLauro

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 489**      No Religious Registry Act pf 2017  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Suzan DelBene

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## Immigration

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018**  
**Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

***We strongly support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that promotes fairness, equality, labor rights, family unification, integration, a program for legal residency and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.***

**H.R. 3440** Dream Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 1036** American Families United Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Beto O'Rourke

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 1006** To clarify the rights of all persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any detention facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.  
**Sponsor:** **Rep.** Pramila Jayapal

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## **Education**

***Education in the USA is unaffordable for the majority of Americans. The securitization of student debt has placed our students at the mercy of corporate predators. Minorities are denied equal access to education. We work to make our education system accessible and affordable to all.***

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

**H.R. 1880** College For All Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Pramila Jayapal

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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**H.R. 3630** Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2017  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Frederica Wilson

**X Yes**      **No**      **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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## General

Please provide us with information in the sections provided below, some information about your campaign:

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

The Keady for Congress campaign plans on unseating Congressman Smith by activating and inspiring the Democrats who don't traditionally vote in mid-term elections because we, as a party, rarely give them reason to. With the number of Democrats alone, our district has enough people to unseat Smith, but our positive, bold, progressive, vision will also attract left-leaning unaffiliated voters. We know that nonvoters generally support progressive policies.

In contrast, my primary opponent's strategy relies on assuming that the historical midterm Democratic turnout number of ~55,000 will be relatively static. This shows that he has not been in tune with the wave of progressive energy since November 2006. I also explains why his policy platforms are center-right, Republican-lite, as he openly stated his plan is to court at least 20% of Chris Smith's reliably Republican voters. I am not willing to write off Democratic voters and our values in order to cater to those special interests. Instead, I will be the kind of candidate voters in the 4<sup>th</sup> district can rely on to stand in the breach and fight for what's best for all of us.

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018**  
**Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**

The specific plans center around alliance-building with likeminded local candidates, a renewed focus on speaking to the concerns of organized labor, especially in the service sector, national progressive organizations' endorsements and recognition, and

- Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign

No Democratic challenger has out-raised Congressman Smith in decades. As a nearly 4-decade incumbent, he has a deep-pocketed network of donors willing to keep him in office. Instead, I plan on running the kind of campaign that's as lean as the non-profit I have run for nearly two decades. We don't need as much money as Congressman Smith. We just need enough to get our positive message out to the voters in the Fourth district and have enough local events and local media that Smith feels the pressure to attend and debate me.

My primary opponent has shown an affinity for large-dollar contributions and high-ticket fundraisers, and yet our campaign totals are nearly neck-and-neck. I am proud of the nearly quarter-million dollars we have raised from small-dollar contributions from everyday people, and I am committed to refusing all corporate PAC money for this and any future campaign.

- grassroots support

The overwhelming support from grassroots organizers in our district is by far one of our campaign's greatest asset. Where other campaigns rely on "paid field" operations, we have armies of volunteers knocking on doors, running phone banking parties, writing letters, and hosting meet-and-greet events. Because I have been in the trenches with the grassroots activists of the Fourth District, they know and trust me and my commitment to their causes.

- your campaign staff in place

My campaign team currently consists of a grassroots activist and organizer as team lead, a finance and operations staff member who worked on John Wizniewski's gubernatorial primary race, with consulting services from a state campaign leader for Bernie Sanders and compliance firm in DC. This reliance on local talent while still having access to experienced campaign professionals is the best of both worlds and fits in perfectly with my campaign's strategy for a grassroots-led victory.

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**





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**Signature of Candidate**

4/16/18  
**Date**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.  
We believe that an informed electorate is  
the greatest assurance of a strong democracy.**

**PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018  
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL**