



**2020 Candidate Questionnaire  
U.S. House of Representatives**

Candidate Name: Arati Kreibich

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Office for which you are running: U.S. House of Representatives NJ-5

Date of Election: Primary: June 2, 2020 General: November 3, 2020

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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.

## **The Congressional Progressive Caucus**

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

**Yes**

No

Comment? (50 word limit)

We need to build a coalition of progressives and working people in order to create the change that is so needed in our country. I would be proud to immediately join the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

## 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                      Comment? (50 word limit)

I would pledge to not become a paid lobbyist for at least 5 years after leaving Congress; normalizing this practice is important for the integrity of our democracy.

## 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.

## Notice to Candidate

**The questions below refer to legislation introduced by bill number in the 115<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Unless noted, bill numbers refer to the 116<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 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

## Presidential Fitness

**H.R. 1987**                      To establish the Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity, and for other purposes. – 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

**Sponsor:**                      Rep. Jamie Raskin

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

I do believe that our president must be held accountable and we must ensure that whoever is in the office is fit to serve. However, disability should not disqualify a person from seeking elected office. It's important that we avoid ableist thinking when implementing this legislation.

## 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. 1384**      Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Pramila Jayapal

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

A single payer health care system is essential to the well being of the people in the U.S. We need a system with no deductible, no copays and no surprise bills. We need a system with free choice of providers which also protects the rights of health care providers while being subject to public accountability.

**H.R. 1692**      Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance of 2019  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Barbara Lee

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

Abortion care is essential healthcare. We must ensure that all people not only have the right to an abortion but also material access. We need to go beyond Roe to codify the right to an abortion and to combat the arbitrary restrictions that are put on abortion care by state governments.

**H.R. 275**              Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2019  
**Sponsor:**              Rep. Peter Welch

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

This bill finally gives the federal government the chance to negotiate on prescription drug prices the way every other insurance plan does. Since Medicare is the largest provider of pharmacy benefits, this bill is long overdue.

**H.R. 1776**            Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs – 115<sup>th</sup> Congress  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Jan Schakowsky

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

This legislation is vital for increasing the transparency and accountability in the pharmaceutical industry. It's crucial that we make prescription drugs more affordable and prioritize people over profits.

**H.R. 1185**            FAMILY Act  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Rosa DeLauro

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

The need for paid family and medical leave is particularly clear at this moment. This bill is a step toward achieving gender equity and combating economic insecurity. Access to twelve weeks of paid leave would be life-changing for so many families like my own.

## **War and Peace/Foreign Policy**

***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 2019  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Barbara Lee

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

We must turn our foreign policy toward creating peace and fighting climate change as a unified international community. But we must also work to make peace within our own country. This legislation will help us in achieving equity and reducing violence, both within our nation and abroad.

**H.R. 1274** Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Lee

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

There must be congressional oversight in the decision for our nation to go to war. The 2002 AUMF legislation has allowed Presidents to use it for military action never authorized by Congress, and allowed for endless wars to continue; it's past time for its repeal.

**H.R. 608** Stop Arming Terrorists Act – 115<sup>th</sup> Congress  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Fueling wars abroad will not help the international community, and it will certainly not help us to deal with the inequity and insecurity in our own country. We need to reevaluate our foreign policy and our interventions in the affairs of other nations in order to stop perpetuating violence.

**H.R. 4837** No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act – 115<sup>th</sup> Congress  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Ro Khanna

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

We should not enter into a likely catastrophic war on a whim. This bill is vital for reinforcing Congressional oversight with regard to war-making. We cannot allow a president to cause conflict of this magnitude without appropriate oversight.

**H.R. 669** Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2019  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Ted Lieu

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

We must avoid nuclear war at all costs, and we must especially avoid being the instigators of such a catastrophic event.

**H.Res. 496** Affirming that all Americans have the right to participate in boycotts in pursuit of civil and human rights at home and abroad, as protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution

**Sponsor:** Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Rep. John Lewis

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

This is a matter of First Amendment rights; we cannot be selective about which types of protests or boycotts in which Americans are allowed to participate. This is vital for maintaining the integrity of our Constitution.

## **Climate Emergency/The Environment**

***Environmental degradation and global warming/climate change threaten human civilization, constituting a climate emergency. 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) – 115<sup>th</sup> Congress  
**Sponsor:**              Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

We need to transition to clean energy and move away from fossil fuels as quickly as possible. We must ensure that all communities have access to our new green energy system and that low-income communities are not left behind.

**H.Res. 109**              Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal  
**Sponsor:**              Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

Passing a Green New Deal is crucial for fighting the climate crisis. We must work to mitigate the climate crisis while protecting vulnerable communities, jumpstarting our economy, and investing in our infrastructure.

**H.R. 2242**              Keep it in the Ground Act – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:**              Rep. Jared Huffman

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

We cannot continue to threaten our seas with the production of fossil fuels and natural gas. In order to achieve climate justice, we absolutely must keep fossil fuels in the ground.

**H.Con.Res. 52** [T]here is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes

**Sponsor:** Rep. Earl Blumenauer

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Climate change is an existential crisis; we absolutely must take drastic action in order to protect the future of our planet and our children. It is imperative that in a world where the President of the U.S. denies science, elected officials stand up for truth.

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

**H.R. 645** Automatic Voter Registration Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. David Cicilline

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Streamlining the voter registration process is vital for decreasing disenfranchisement and increasing participation in our democratic process.

**H.R. 1** For the People Act (passed 116<sup>th</sup> Congress)

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Sarbanes

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

We must protect and strengthen our democracy. These democracy reforms are crucial for making voting more accessible and keeping corporate money out of politics.

**H.R. 118** Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations and Early (SIMPLE) Voting Act of 2019

**Sponsor:** Rep. Steve Cohen

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Voting should be easier and more accessible for all people regardless of income or geographic location. Early voting and more accessible polling locations will increase voter turnout and address some of the barriers that leave folks unable to vote.

## Economic and Social Justice

***The enormous wealth disparity between the top 1 percent and the rest of America is an unsustainable economic and social injustice. PDA supports 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. 2923**      Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2019  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Barbara Lee

**Yes**              No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

We must ensure that those with wealth pay their fair share. This bill would allow for a tax on certain covered transactions. This tax will allow the federal government to invest more in programs that strengthen our social safety net.

**H.R. 582**              Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (passed 116<sup>th</sup> Congress)  
**Sponsor:**              Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

**Yes**              No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

Raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour is crucial for protecting workers. But we must ensure that the federal minimum wage continues to rise to match inflation and that tipped workers are included in this.

**H.R. 1000**              Jobs for All Act  
**Sponsor:**              Rep. Frederica Wilson

**Yes**              No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

All Americans should have access to employment. While we should work to ensure that folks do not have to perform wage labor in order to have their basic human needs met, ensuring that Americans have access to jobs is vital for achieving equity.

**H.R. 860**              Social Security 2100 Act  
**Sponsor:**              Rep. John Larson

**Yes**              No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

Seniors deserve to feel financially secure. In contrast to my opponent, I support this effort to safeguard and strengthen Social Security.

**H.R. 1170**            Social Security Expansion Act  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Peter DeFazio

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

Ensuring the solvency of Social Security is crucial for so many Americans who rely on Social Security for much or all of their income.

**H.R. 40**                Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

There is clear evidence of systemic racism and racial atrocities in our nation. In striving for equity, we must seriously consider reparations. H.R.40 is a good first step in exploring what reparations would look like for our nation.

**H.R. 4396**            ME TOO Congress Act – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Jackie Speier

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

All employees should be protected from sexual harassment and discrimination. All workplaces, including the legislative branch, should be free from sexual harassment. This is vital for gender equity and workplace safety.

**H.R. 4152**            Fair Employment Protection Act of 2017 – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Rosa DeLauro

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

No one should have to face workplace harassment. We must hold accountable those who create hostile work environments as well as employers whose negligence allows workplace harassment to continue.

**H.R. 4782**            The Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act of 2018 – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Stacey Plaskett

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

The U.S. has a responsibility to protect its territories and to rebuild hurricane-stricken Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We must not only support rebuilding of infrastructure, but also ensure the resiliency of these territories through strengthening social safety nets.

**H.R. 1296**            Assault Weapons Ban of 2019  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. David Cicilline

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

We see time and time again the destruction caused by assault weapons in our nation. We must ban assault weapons now in order to protect our children and our communities.

**H.R. 2474**            Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Bobby Scott

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

All workers should be protected by labor laws. We must ensure that all workers are all allowed to join unions and are able to advocate for better working conditions.

**H.R. 3760**            Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act of 2019  
**Sponsor:**            Rep. Pramila Jayapal

**Yes**                    No                            Comment? (50 word limit)

Domestic workers have long been without rights and therefore subject to abuse on several levels. We must affirm the rights of domestic workers and ensure that they are protected by labor laws.

## **Emergency Aid for Natural Disasters**

**The climate change-intensified natural disasters of 2017-18 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)**

As climate-change increases the intensity and frequency of natural disasters, centering vulnerable communities that are the most likely to experience these disasters and other effects of climate change is crucial. Public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic will also increase in frequency as a result of climate change.

One of the most important steps we can take is passing a Green New Deal to begin mitigating the climate crisis. A GND will also lead to an investment in infrastructure that will help to lessen the impact of intensifying natural disasters on vulnerable communities.

The delay in getting aid to Puerto Rico is unacceptable; we cannot repeat this error. We must have oversight to ensure that the racism of our federal government does not prevent the distribution of aid or the fulfilling of human rights. We need accountability and guidance for agencies that distribute emergency aid, and we must increase transparency in the process to improve the speed of deployment of aid to disaster areas.

As the climate crisis intensifies both natural disasters and public health disasters, we need leaders who will step up to ensure that aid is allocated to our already insecure communities that will be hit hardest by these worsening crises. When elected, I will fight to ensure that our country begins putting an emphasis on preparedness by taking substantive action to fight the climate crisis, and I will advocate to ensure greater accountability of aid agencies and Congress.

## **Corporate Rule**

***Big corporations and banks dominate our political process, spending billions to lobby for programs against the public interest, and to privatize public services for profit. This influence 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.J.Res. 2**      Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections

**Sponsor:**      Rep. Ted Deutch

**Yes**              No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

We must implement campaign finance reform, and this resolution would help us to build a more democratic future.

## Mass Incarceration/Criminal Justice Reform

***The United States houses 25 percent of the world's inmates despite having only 5 percent 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 – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Raul Grijalva

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

We need criminal justice reform in our country, and we need to combat mass incarceration. This legislation is vital for beginning to address mass incarceration and some of the inhumane practices that are perpetuated in our criminal justice system.

**H.R. 1498** End Racial Profiling Act of 2017 – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

We know that there is racism inherent in our criminal justice system. We must require law enforcement at all levels to actively work to stop racial profiling and to implement race-based training. Collecting data on the scale of racial profiling is also crucial for combating this problem.

**H.R. 65** Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (RAISE Act) – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

Children should not be treated like adults in our criminal justice system. We need to support young people, not criminalize and incarcerate them.

## 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.***

**H.J.Res. 38**      Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Jackie Speier

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

We should still be able to ratify the ERA today. Removing the deadline for the ratification of the ERA would be a step in the right direction for gender equity.

**H.R. 7**                      Paycheck Fairness Act  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Rosa DeLauro

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

Equal pay is crucial for gender equity. We need to hold employers who pay women less than men accountable.

**H.R. 489**                      No Religious Registry Act of 2017 – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:**      Rep. Suzan DelBene

**Yes**                      No                      Comment? (50 word limit)

The federal government should not collect data, or set up a database about religious affiliation of U.S. residents for the purposes of classifying residents. This is a precursor to increased discrimination, and we absolutely must not allow a religious registry to ever be created.

## Immigration

***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 all undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.***

**H.R. 2820** Dream Act of 2019  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Dreamers are integral to our country, and they must be given a way to remain in the only country they've ever really known. The path to citizenship for Dreamers should be expedient.

**H.R. 1036** American Families United Act – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Beto O'Rourke

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

We must do all that we can to keep families together. This bill will help to combat some of the ways in which families are kept apart, and it will help to make our immigration system more humane. However, we must expand this legislation to include reuniting families who are undocumented.

**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. – 115th Congress  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Pramila Jayapal

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

All people, regardless of their immigration status, are entitled to basic human rights. We cannot continue to perpetuate human rights abuses at the border, and we must hold those who carry out this abuse accountable.

## **Education**

***U.S education is unaffordable for a majority of Americans. Securitization of student debt has placed students at the mercy of corporate predators. Minorities are denied equal access to education. Our education system must be accessible and affordable to all.***

**H.R. 3472** College For All Act  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Pramila Jayapal

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Higher education should be available to all who want it. We must make higher education more accessible for the sake of the public good. Eliminating tuition and fees for public colleges is crucial for achieving this goal.

**H.R. 3027** Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2019

**Sponsor:** Rep. Frederica Wilson

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Student loan borrowers ought to be protected. Student loan debt is a burden to so many Americans, and we must work to mitigate this burden in order to combat financial insecurity in our nation.

**H.R. 3448** Student Debt Cancellation Act of 2019

**Sponsor:** Rep. Ilhan Omar

**Yes** No Comment? (50 word limit)

Fear of student loan debt inhibits folks from seeking higher education. Student debt has become a lifelong struggle for so many Americans. We must eliminate this struggle in order to create a more equitable society and to strengthen our economy.

## **General:**

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

I am so proud of how quickly my campaign has been able to adapt to these uncertain and challenging circumstances in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Within a weekend, we were able to shift to an entirely digital campaign even with all staff members working remotely. In the first week of our entirely digital campaign, we made 10,000 phone calls, hosted 3 virtual fundraisers, and held 2 digital organizing webinars to bring our volunteers along into this new phase of our campaign.

My campaign has not lost momentum despite the unique challenges that this moment presents. This includes the challenges of "crisis schooling" two children from home while juggling campaigning and having a partner who is a healthcare practitioner at Holy Name Hospital, which has the most COVID-19 cases in NJ.

Being a working mother right now is especially hard, and this moment of crisis shows us why we need more mothers and scientists in Congress.

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

With the end of the quarter fast approaching, I am on track to have my best fundraising quarter yet. And although fundraising during the COVID-19 crisis has been difficult, we are leading in mutual aid initiatives that will have a real impact on our community. Through an email and social media campaign, we were able to raise over \$2,500 for a local food bank, Center for Food Action. In addition to this, we helped to collect and deliver 65,000 nitrile gloves to local hospitals, and we are continuing to collect PPE for frontline healthcare workers in our community.

- Evidence of grassroots support

A major difference between myself and my primary opponent is that I will have the support of grassroots and progressive organizations and the momentum of people-power. We are building a coalition of both local and national grassroots organizations. I am proud to have earned the endorsements of the Working Families Party; the Progressive Change Campaign Committee; both my local chapter and national Indivisible; Our Revolution NJ; and Food and Water Action.

- Your campaign staff in place

I am proud of the team that we have built and how much we have been able to accomplish. Our team consists of a campaign manager, call time manager, organizing director, deputy organizing director, events coordinator, and communications manager. Aside from paid staff, we have many volunteers who do so much for the campaign and are essential to our daily operations.

This is one of the top races to watch right now, and it's a campaign worth investing in for many reasons. This race will help to define the future of the Democratic party. Marie Newman showed us the other week that progressive challengers can win in suburban districts like NJ-5 when they can stitch together a coalition of progressive and suburban voters. I would be so honored to earn the endorsement of Progressive Democrats of America and to have PDA as a partner in the fight to get another progressive scientist elected to Congress.

*Arati Kreibich*

3/31/20

**Signature of Candidate**

**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.**