**Rocky Adkins – Candidate for Governor**

1. **What sets you apart from the other candidates?**

I grew up in rural Kentucky, the son of a school teacher and a grocery clerk, and learned the value of hard work on my family’s farm. I am a proven leader who will always stand up and fight for working families and I know how to work across the aisle to get things done, something I have proven repeatedly as the House Democratic Floor Leader. I am the only candidate who was at the forefront of expanding access to health care, who stood up to oppose legislative cuts to education and pensions, and who led the way in securing investments in energy research and tourism that have created jobs across the state. I am a cancer survivor and understand the pain and cost of an unexpected illness. I know what it’s like to be laid off because of declines in the coal industry. I know the challenges facing Kentuckians in a way no one else in this race does.

2. **What will you do about the rising cost of healthcare?**

Expanded Medicaid was a game-changer for Kentucky that has saved lives, improved our collective health and pumped billions of dollars into our economy. Expanded Medicaid isn’t only a health care policy; it’s also an economic development issue that supports the health care industry across our state, including our rural hospitals. Access to affordable health care lowers costs to people, hospitals and Kentucky. I will look for ways to invest more in expanding care, not spending hundreds of millions of dollars looking for ways to take away health insurance from almost 100,000 Kentuckians.

3. **How are you going to bring Kentucky into the future?**

Kentucky’s economy is changing, and we must work to bring 21st century jobs, like those in the aerospace industry and other high-demand sectors, to our state. Aerospace exports brought more than $12 billion to Kentucky in 2018. This means opportunity for Kentuckians. Kentucky is uniquely positioned to take advantage of this growing sector because it is training the workforce right now. We must offer even more job-training programs and affordable post-secondary education opportunities so people gain the skills necessary to secure high-wage, high-demand jobs.

4. **How do you plan on addressing income inequality in Kentucky?**

The first step is investing in our public school systems so that everyone, from our rural towns to our urban centers, has access to a strong education. We need to attract new businesses and industries that provide a living wage. We should look at raising the minimum wage in a tiered process with exceptions for small businesses.

5. **What are your goals if elected?**

I will work to ensure that every student receives a high-quality education. I will invest in infrastructure to create new opportunities, whether it’s improving our roads and bridges or building the high-speed internet network of the future. I will work to create jobs that provide a fair wage and spur sustainable economic growth in all regions of the commonwealth. I believe that everyone should have access to health care. I am a cancer survivor and I know first-hand the importance of affordable health care. No Kentuckian should ever have to delay care or make the tough decision between purchasing prescription medication or paying their electric bill. I believe we must also make medical marijuana legal to help people that suffer from certain diseases and conditions. It is time we make voting easier, with extended early voting and automatic registration. Lastly, I will jumpstart our workforce and create new career paths for Kentuckians with free community college and job training.