



Labor Day is a great opportunity for us to remember workers in our communities, and how our faith calls us to treat everyone fairly. Millions of people contribute their labor so that Virginia can thrive, but many of these workers are not able to thrive on an individual level. This 2022 Labor Day, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) and The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis released a report called “The State of Working Virginia” to explore how workers are doing in the commonwealth. Some key takeaways:

- Though average wages in Virginia are going up, inflation means workers’ buying power is decreasing, especially for low-wage workers.
- More than 1 million workers don’t have paid sick days, and more than 3 million workers lack paid family medical leave.
- Virginia’s child care is among the most expensive in the country (top 20 percent out of 50 states and DC).
- Though laws protecting wages from theft have been strengthened in recent years, unethical employers still steal wages.

Check out the other side to see how you can support workers and advocate better policies with VICPP!

5 Things You Can Do to Support Workers – Labor Day and Beyond



- 1) **Pray for all workers**, but especially essential workers who kept Virginia functioning during the pandemic.
- 2) **Tip generously and speak kindly.** Workers who earn their livelihood through tips and interactions with customers are not always treated well. Do your part to tip generously and speak kindly with workers who wait on or serve you.
- 3) **Be watchful against wage theft.** Wage theft, the illegal cheating of workers’ wages, is common practice in many low-wage sectors, such as landscaping, restaurants, residential construction, retail, and others. If you, your congregation, or your places of business hire contracted services, make sure that workers are paid legally and fairly. Otherwise, you may inadvertently be contributing to wage theft. For more information, visit: <https://wagetheftva.org>
- 4) **Support businesses that pay living wages.** Apply to have your business be living wage certified and invite businesses you patron to do the same. Learn more about the Virginia Living Wage Certification program at: <https://www.livingwagevirginia.org>
- 5) **Advocate policies that will help workers in low-paying jobs.** Sign up to receive the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy’s Action Alerts to impact Virginia’s policies at: <https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/email-list>