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Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) Legislative Priorities for 2022

Detailed fact sheets are available at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org for all priority issues.

Economic Justice/Worker Justice

- **Paid Sick Days.** VICPP and the Virginians for Paid Sick Days coalition won paid sick days for 30,000 home healthcare aides in 2021, but Virginia needs a standard for all 1.2 million workers without paid sick days. VICPP is supporting legislation to expand Paid Sick Days to key groups of essential workers. (Key staff: Jase Hatcher)
- **Protecting Children in the Workplace.** VICPP is supporting a bill requiring parental permission for children who work on tobacco farms. (Key staff: Sheila Herlihy)

Criminal Justice Reform

- **Limiting Use of Solitary Confinement.** VICPP is leading the faith advocacy in the Virginia Coalition on Solitary Confinement. A bill was killed last year in the Senate over financial issues (the bill was given a huge price tag). The Coalition has addressed the financial concerns of the Administration and is building support for reforms. (Key staff: Salim Khalfani)
- **Counsel at First Appearance.** VICPP is leading faith advocacy in the Virginia Pretrial Justice Coalition, making sure that poor people do not end up in jail before their trials simply because they are poor and don't have access to bail funds or attorneys. (Key staff: Salim Khalfani)
- **Voting Access.** VICPP is supporting the constitutional amendment that restores voting access to persons who have completed their sentences for felony convictions. The amendment passed in 2021 and must pass in 2022 to be placed on the November ballot. (Key Staff: Dora Muhammad)

Health Equity/Human Needs & Racial Equity

- **Unconscious (Implicit) Bias Training Mandate.** VICPP is supporting a bill to add unconscious (implicit) bias training as a criterion for all health care professionals to be eligible for an initial or renewed license from the Virginia Board of Medicine. Data released by Virginia's Maternal Mortality Review Team shows that provider-related factors are the most prevalent contributor to racial disparities in pregnancy-related deaths. Research has shown that bias training significantly improves provider-patient relationships and care. (Key Staff: Dora Muhammad)
- **Affordable Housing.** VICPP is supporting three budget proposals to improve access to affordable housing: for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to build new affordable housing units and prevent homelessness; to establish a statewide rental assistance program; and to create a two-year restorative homeownership pilot program designed by the Virginia Poverty Law Center to increase homeownership in communities that have been historically excluded from home ownership opportunities through redlining, lack of access to credit, or other forms of discrimination. (Key staff: Dora Muhammad and Sheila Herlihy)

Other

- **Guns in Worship.** VICPP is opposing a bill to remove the prohibition on the carrying of dangerous weapons in a place of worship without good and sufficient reason. VICPP defeated similar bills in 2018 and 2019. (Key Staff: Kim Bobo)
- **Defend Past Gains.** VICPP will oppose efforts to reinstate the death penalty, rollback minimum wage increases, or undermine wage theft or predatory lending reforms.