



VICPP 2025 Likely Policy Priorities

Health Equity

Lead:

- **Unconscious Bias/Cultural Competency Training.** VICPP has led on this issue for the last few years and has come very close to winning it. We must get the Governor willing to sign the bill if we are to win it. **This is a priority grassroots effort.**
- **Expanding Medicaid Services to Incarcerated Pregnant Women.** This would be budget language for a 1115 waiver to allow Medicaid to pay for services for pregnant women in jails (not prisons – yet). Partnering with Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC).
- **Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women.** Allow pregnant women to be immediately enrolled for Medicaid without waiting for up to 45 days for Medicaid paperwork to be processed. Mississippi just passed this. Partnering with VPLC.

Support:

- **Access to Care:** VICPP helped expose the fact that Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) with the state Medicaid contracts were not adequately serving pregnant women. The press conference we organized explained that pregnant women were unable to get basic appointments, especially in the second and third trimesters. (No wonder we have a maternal health crisis.) VICPP will support a budget amendment to ensure that MCOs increase the use of community-based providers shown to improve maternal health.
- **Cover All Kids:** This is a coalition effort to provide health coverage for undocumented children who would normally be eligible for Medicaid except for their documentation status. We have worked on this for several years and it is a great issue for VICPP's base. **This is a priority grassroots effort even though we are not the lead.** The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis leads the coalition on this.

Affordable Housing

Lead:

- **Faith and Housing.** VICPP is leading on a bill to make it easier for congregations to use their land or buildings to build affordable housing. **This is a priority grassroots effort.**

Support:

- **Money for building housing.** VICPP will support the VA Housing Alliance proposals around more money.
- **Tenant reforms.** VICPP will support the VA Poverty Law Center's and the Home of Virginia's proposed tenant reforms.

Criminal Justice Reform

Lead:

- **Expanding Higher Education in Prison.** VICPP will help lead on a bill to expand higher education in prison. **This is a priority grassroots effort.**

- **Youth Shackling.** Shackling young people is still a practice being used in courtrooms in the Commonwealth of Virginia. “According to the Gault Center, a youth rights group, 39 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington D.C., now limit or prohibit the indiscriminate shackling of children. Virginia’s one of only 11 states in the country to continue the practice.”

Support:

- **Restoration of Rights.** This bill would amend the [Virginia Constitution](#) to restore voting rights to persons convicted of a felony after they have completed their sentence. Currently, the [governor](#) has the sole authority to restore voting rights. In Virginia, a constitutional amendment needs to be passed by a simple majority vote in both chambers over two consecutive legislative sessions to be certified for the ballot.
- **Counsel at First Appearance.** In Virginia, people detained pretrial can sit in jail for days or even weeks before they can challenge their detention, often resulting in a loss of employment, housing, access to medical care, and more, with effects rippling through families and communities. And when they finally appear in court, they often face a complicated system without a lawyer. This, Counsel at First Appearance legislation or CAFA, would ensure counsel is provided to everyone in custody at their first appearance and would allow the defendant to have their arguments for bond to be heard on that day, if they so desire.

Working Family Supports

Lead:

- **Paid Sick Days.** VICPP will work to keep the issue alive in 2025, if our patrons are willing.
- **Child Labor.** Delegate Seibold wants to do more in this space. We need to work with her to figure out what might make sense.

Support:

- **Eliminate Childcare Waitlists.** Even though the General Assembly allocated a lot of new money for childcare assistance, there are growing waitlists around the commonwealth. VICPP will support the initiatives of the Virginia Promise Partnership to eliminate (or reduce) childcare waitlists for subsidized childcare.
- **Minimum wage.** VICPP will support coalition efforts to raise the minimum wage.

Other

In addition, if there are viable proposals that could use our support, VICPP may support bills to enact:

- **Common sense gun reform.**
- **Tax reform.**