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## VICPP 2025 Policy Priorities

### Health Equity

#### Lead on Maternal Health:

- **Unconscious Bias/Cultural Competency Training (SB 740/HB 1649).** VICPP has led on this issue for the last few years and has come very close to winning it. VICPP is hopeful that the Governor will sign the bill this year. (Patrons: Sen. Locke/Sen. Head and Del. Hayes with Del. Coyner supporting)
- **Expand Medicaid Services to Incarcerated Pregnant Women.** This budget amendment directs DMAS to apply for a Medicaid 1115 reentry waiver to provide pregnant and postpartum care for women who are incarcerated. VICPP is partnering with the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) on this issue. (Budget Amendment Sponsors: Sen. Locke and Del. Coyner)
- **Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (SB 831/HB 2102).** Allow pregnant women to be immediately enrolled in Medicaid without waiting for up to 45 days for Medicaid paperwork to be processed. Mississippi just passed this. Partnering with VPLC. (Patrons: Sen. Locke and Del. Feggans)
- **Keep Labor and Delivery Units Open (HB 1904).** At the request of south and west side VICPP advocates, VICPP drafted this bill to address a problem in maternity care deserts to enable nursery and OB units to remain open. (Patron: Del. Willett)

#### Support:

- **Perinatal Health Hub (Item 277).** VICPP supports the Governor's line item in the budget to support perinatal health hubs which are community-based navigation centers to improve health outcomes for pregnant women and infants.
- **Cover All Kids.** VICPP strongly supports this coalition effort, led by TCI, to provide health coverage for undocumented children who would normally be eligible for Medicaid except for their documentation status. (Budget Amendment Sponsors: Sen. Hashmi and Del. Tran)
- **Community Health Workers.** A budget amendment directs DMAS to conduct a rate study and benefit analysis of a community health worker benefit - a first step toward Virginia creating a CHW Medicaid benefit. (Budget Amendment Sponsors: Sen. Pillion and Del. Sickles.)

### Affordable Housing

#### Lead:

- **Faith and Housing (HB 2153).** VICPP is leading on a bill to enable localities to streamline the process for congregations to use their land to build affordable housing. (Patrons: Sen. Hashmi, Del. Carr/Del. Tata)

#### Support:

- **Money for affordable housing.** VICPP supports the VA Housing Alliance proposals around more money for Virginia's housing trust fund, vouchers for renters, and first-time homebuyer assistance.
- **Tenant reforms.** VICPP supports various protections for renters in coalition with VPLC, HOME of Virginia, and New Virginia Majority.

## Criminal Justice Reform

### Lead:

- **Expanding Education in Prison (HB 2158).** VICPP is helping lead on a bill to expand education in prison, including VICPP's priority around higher education. The bill seeks to standardize educational programs and opportunities throughout the prison system to increase literacy, prepare people for taking the GED and offer higher education classes in every prison. (Patron: Del. Carr)
- **Youth Shackling (HB 2222).** Shackling young people is still a practice being used in courtrooms in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia is one of only 11 states in the country to continue the practice. (Patrons: Sen. Bagby and Del. Cousins)

### Support:

- **Restoration of Rights (SJ 248/HJ 2).** 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. (Patrons: Sen. Locke and Del. Bennett-Parker)
- **Counsel at First Appearance (HB 2217).** People detained pretrial can sit in jail for days or weeks before they can challenge their detention, often resulting in a loss of employment, housing, access to medical care, and more. This bill 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. (Patrons: Sen. Aird/Sen. Stanley and Del. Callsen)

## Working Family Supports

### Lead:

- **Paid Sick Days (HB 1921).** VICPP is working to keep the issue alive in 2025, because workers deserve to get five days off when they are sick. (Patron: Del. Ward)

### Support:

- **Eliminate Childcare Waitlists.** Despite allocating new money for childcare assistance last year, there are growing waitlists around the commonwealth. VICPP supports the initiatives of the Virginia Promise Partnership to eliminate (or reduce) childcare waitlists for subsidized childcare.
- **Minimum wage (HB 1928).** VICPP supports raising the minimum wage. (Patron: Del. Ward)
- **Remove the Farm Worker Exemption from Minimum Wage (HB 1625).** This bill would allow farmworkers to be covered by the Virginia Minimum wage. (Patron: Del. McClure)

## Other

- **Voter protection (SB 813/HB 1657).** VICPP supports a bill to prevent eligible citizens from being purged from voter lists because of outdated or inaccurate data from the DMV. (Patrons: Sen. Rouse and Del. Henson)
- **Common sense gun reform.** If there are viable proposals that could use our support, VICPP will participate in coalition efforts.
- **Tax reform (HB 2333 and HB 1754).** VICPP supports two bills to create higher tax rate categories for high income earners. The Commonwealth Institute's Fair Share tax proposes a 10 percent tax rate for those with annual incomes above \$1 million (Del. Hernandez). The other bill proposes a 7 percent tax rate for those with annual incomes above \$600,000 (Del. Watts).
- **Immigrant protection.** As part of the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights, VICPP will oppose bills that criminalize the immigrant community and support bills that protect our immigrant neighbors.