



1716 East Franklin Street • Richmond 23223 • 804-643-2474 • virginiainterfaithcenter.org

VICPP 2026 Policy Priorities

Health Equity

Lead on Maternal Health:

- **Reducing Bias (SB22/ HB1147).** This bill would require evidence-based bias reduction training for health care professionals with the goal of improving outcomes and reducing racial disparities. (Patrons: Sen. Locke and Del. Hayes, Sen. Head supports) ***Passed into law!***
- **Expanding access to Midwives (Budget amendments).** This budget amendment will direct DMAS and VDH to convene a work group that brings stakeholders together to study barriers that prevent Virginia moms on Medicaid from accessing Cardinal Care with all midwives that are licensed by the state upon entry into care. (Patrons: Sen. Deeds, Del. Willett) ***Included in Senate draft budget.***
- **Increase access to nurses in schools (SB33/ HB195).** This bill and associated budget amendments allow school districts with at-risk add-on funding to use some of that money to pay for a school nurse. (Patrons: Sen. Favola and Del. McQuinn) ***Passed into law!***

Support:

- **Protect Medicaid/FAMIS Coverage.** VICPP strongly supports this coalition effort in partnership with Healthcare for All Virginians. Through amendments to Virginia's budget, the organizations are working to protect access to health care which is currently under threat due to the federal budget.
- **Strengthen Safety Net Facilities, including Free Clinics.** These community-centered clinics are already straining to serve families and will need financial support to catch the growing population of Virginians who don't have access to healthcare. ***Included in draft budgets.***
- **Increase Children's Health Coverage.** This budget amendment expands access to families with income up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Line, correcting Virginia's below-average. ***Not included in draft budgets.***

Affordable Housing

Lead:

- **Expediting Affordable Housing (HB594).** VICPP is leading on a bill to allow localities to streamline the zoning approval process for increased density when developing affordable housing. (Patron: Del. Simonds) ***Passed into law!***
- **State-wide YIGBY/ Faith and Housing (SB388/ HB1279).** VICPP is co-leading a bill that would automatically allow congregations to build multi-family housing on land that they own, called "Yes in God's Backyard". (Patrons: Sen. McPike, Sen. Carrol-Foy and Del. Josh Cole) ***Passed into law!***

Support:

- **Money for affordable housing.** VICPP supports the Virginia Housing Alliance proposals around 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 the Allies for Housing Action, including allowing more time to pay rent before getting evicted, offering a right of first refusal to maintain affordability, and increasing protections against retaliation from landlords. (Various patrons) ***Many bills passed into law, some with delayed enactments!***

Criminal Justice Reform

Lead:

- **Higher Education in Prison (HB1041).** VICPP supports a bill to expand access to college programs in state prisons, establish a state-level Advisory Group, and include educational data from VDOC in

the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) to enable assessment of employment impacts. (Patron: Del. Carr) ***Passed into law!***

- **Protect the mother/baby in a pregnancy with substance exposure (SB133/ HB1147).** This bill was written to encourage Virginia moms to enter into prenatal care. Virginia's law currently triggers child abuse and neglect referrals when an infant is born affected by substance use even when the mother is engaged in medicated assisted treatment (MAT), or the substance has been decriminalized. This bill creates a work group to study the implications of substance use policies on families. (Patrons: Sen. Locke and Del. Hayes) ***Passed into law!***

Support:

- **Restoration of Rights (SJ2/ HJ2).** 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. 2026 is the second of two consecutive referrals of the Constitutional amendment before going to the voters. (Patrons: Sen. Locke, Del. Bennett-Parker) ***Passed legislature and signed! Now on Virginia's November ballot.***
- **Counsel at First Appearance (HB127).** People detained before trial 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 that legal counsel is provided to everyone in custody at their first appearance in court, and would allow the defendant to have their arguments for bond to be heard on that day. (Patron: Del. Callsen) ***Passed legislature!***

Working Family Supports

Lead:

- **Paid Sick Days (HB5/ SB199).** VICPP is working to require five days off for all workers to use when they are sick. Workers accrue the time based on hours worked. (Patrons: Sen. Favola and Del. Convors-Fowler) ***Passed legislature!***

Support:

- **Child Care (SB3/HB18, SB119, SB134/ HB254).** VICPP supports the Virginia Promise Partnership, which leads child care efforts. These bills help Virginia families access quality, affordable child care by eliminating (or reducing) waiting lists for subsidized care and establishing a predictable funding formula that anticipates fluctuations in parent demand. (Various patrons) ***Passed into law!***
- **Paid Family and Medical Lead (SB2/ HB1207).** VICPP co-leads the Paid Leave for All Virginians coalition to ensure hardworking Virginians have paid time to care. This bill addresses the need for weeks and months off work. (Patron: Sen. Boysko and Del. Sewell) ***Passed into law!***
- **Raise the Minimum Wage (SB1/ HB1).** VICPP supports raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour over the next two years. (Patrons: Sen. Lucas and Del. Ward) ***Passed into law!***
- **Remove the Farm Worker Exemption from Minimum Wage (HB20).** This bill would ensure that farmworkers make VA's minimum hourly wage. (Patron: Del. McClure) ***Passed into law!***
- **Overtime Pay for Domestic Workers (SB28/ HB27).** This bill would add domestic workers to provisions related to overtime pay. (Patrons: Sen. Carroll Foy and Del. Henson) ***Passed legislature; amended by Governor requiring re-enactment in 2027.***

Other

- **Common sense gun reform (HB217/ SB749).** VICPP participates in coalition efforts to reduce the sale of automatic weapons. (Patrons: Del. Helmer, Sen. Salim) ***Passed into law!***
- **Tax reform (HB1074).** As part of the "fair share" tax coalition, VICPP supports a bill to create higher tax rate categories for income over \$1 million. The Commonwealth Institute leads the work on this issue. (Patron: Del. Hernandez) ***Died in legislature.***
- **Immigrant protection (HB1441 & SB783 | HB650 & SB351).** As part of the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights, VICPP supports bills to offer protections for the immigrant community, including reducing collaboration between local police and federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and preventing immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, including courthouses and public schools. (Various patrons) ***Reduce ICE collaboration signed into law! Limiting enforcement vetoed.***