

April 29, 2021

Dear Friend,

I hope this message finds you well. As your elected Delegate, I'm taking this opportunity to report to you on what took place in the Virginia Legislature and how it will affect all of us. The House of Delegates convened the 2021 legislative session virtually and the Governor extended the 2021 regular session with a special session which ended March 1st.

### **An Overview of New Laws in Virginia**

Having the Democrats in control of the legislature and the executive (the Governor), has led to some dramatic changes to our great Commonwealth. Consistently, Republicans took the role of defending against significant policy shifts which will have long term negative consequences. The bright side is that legislation is not permanent, the future will always afford opportunities to reform laws to best serve those affected. If we don't undo some laws recently passed soon, Virginia will no longer be one of the safest states in America.

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### **Back to School**

"Getting Back to School" has taken on new significance since schools have been shut down by Governor Northam-imposed sweeping Executive orders beginning in March of 2020, supposedly for two weeks. These orders were declared with little or no input from legislators, parents, or medical experts. Over a year later, the Governor's COVID-19 restrictions drag on, and many families still don't have the option of full-time in-person classes. Republicans backed Senate Bill 1303, the "Open the Schools" bill, during the 2021 Special Session, to give parents an option to have their kids back in class 5 days per week. While maintaining a pretense of concern for the need to allow kids back into full-time school, Democrats aligned with teachers' unions instead of dealing with the developing crisis in our schools, until eventually, as public parent, teacher and student dissatisfaction mounted, Democrats eventually and reluctantly opted to back down, at least partly. Families take comfort knowing the 33rd District is home to some of the highest quality schools in the nation, where children can reach their full potential. That can only happen when schools are open.

## **Moving Virginia to the Left**

In this letter, I'll give some examples of the dramatic shift in policies through laws recently enacted, and, in doing so, expose the pattern of unworkable measures passed these last two years by a Democrat governor and legislature; among them are legalizing drugs, more criminals back on the street and less public safety, more gambling, less religious freedom, higher taxes and spending, more regulation, and a stunning assault on traditional values. Ultimately, it is up to the public to accept or reject new policies and laws.

## **Dismantling Law Enforcement**

Probably the most alarming policy agenda push by the Democrat majority is their efforts to reduce sentences for criminals of all stripes, including the most violent killers, sexual predators, thieves, etc., and even block capital punishment while leading Virginia to defund the police. Coupled with efforts to make careers in law enforcement far less attractive and less lucrative, filling thousands of positions now vacant will be next to impossible. These efforts are in sharp contrast to ongoing Republican-led initiatives seeking to preserve safe streets and secure neighborhoods by properly training and funding law enforcement.

## **Fair Elections**

My questioning of even the most fraud-prone election practices has stimulated a backlash against me like nothing I would have imagined, infuriating Democrats and their allies in the media. For example, I called out unconstitutionally-enacted election laws in Virginia which forced massive changes on understaffed and overworked registrars at the eleventh hour without adequate instructions just before the 2020 election. Likewise, my calling out the Virginia Commissioner of Elections for failing to follow Virginia law to make sure voter rolls were up to date before the 2020 election was so offensive to many that some called for my resignation. I politely declined to capitulate. Simply put I will continue working to make it easy to vote, but hard to cheat.

## **Medical Freedom**

I have challenged the fairness of forced vaccinations endorsed by Virginia's Health Commissioner and even the efficacy of experimental vaccinations, and I have sought to raise awareness of expert advice on how to bolster one's immune system to avoid serious harm from Covid-19. Because this information departs from government and media-approved viewpoints, a concerted effort was and is underway to silence me or others who apply critical thought to important issues when it is needed the most. Medical Passports and a Social Credits System are on the horizon and are a direct assault on God-given rights.

## **Acting Responsibly to Preserve Basic Freedom**

Rest assured I am committed to making sure parents have a real choice and opportunities in education for students, being a guardian of our freedom and hard-earned dollars, and I want Virginians, young and old, to have access to high-paying careers. Yet again, this session I found myself working with other Republicans defending our 2nd Amendment rights, seeking to end COVID-19 shutdowns, or at least make them more business friendly, standing in defense of the rights of people to express their faith without government intrusion, working to secure medical freedom in the face of policies which ignore these fundamental rights and I have worked to reverse the trend toward more liberal abortion in Virginia.

Read more about my efforts on the following pages, as well as on my website, and let me know if I can help you!

Sincerely,



## Delegate LaRock Legislation

Democrats blocked all but a few Republican bills in the past two years. This year, Delegates were limited to introducing seven bills. My HB 2241 protection from dismemberment abortion, HB 2246 state telework employee accountability, and HJ 573 to keep COVID-19 vaccines voluntary, were not even given a hearing. My goal in filing any bill was to improve quality of life for as many as possible in significant ways. I consider these to be worth pursuing in future sessions as needed to pass them into law:

- HB 2251 Emergency Services and Disaster Law; Commissioner of Health; emergency orders and regulations. Provides that neither the Governor, nor the Board of Health, nor the Commissioner of Health shall make any emergency order or regulation unless, on the basis of the evidence available to the Board, such order or regulation is **necessary to suppress** a nuisance dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health; No alternatives to the proposed order or regulation that are reasonable in light of the impact on quality of life and economic well-being exist; and The provisions of such order or regulation are **narrowly tailored to address the nuisance** dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health. The bill provides that any order that limits the number of individuals who may gather together in person, in public or private is presumed to negatively impact quality of life and economic well-being. The bill also **limits the duration of any emergency rule, regulation, or order to 15 days**; provides for one extension of such rule, regulation, or order. **Defeated on a 6-3 party-line vote**
- HB 2241 Unborn child protection from dismemberment abortion; penalties. Prohibits the practice of dismemberment abortion, which is defined in the bill as meaning to, with the purpose of causing the death of an unborn child, purposely dismember a living unborn child. **Democrat House leadership refused to give this bill a hearing**
- HB 2245 Use of transportation funds. States that it is the policy of the Commonwealth that revenues dedicated to transportation purposes shall not be used or redirected for any non-transportation-related purpose. Any attempt to re-purpose funds dedicated to transportation as of July 1, 2020, shall be deemed invalid and shall not be effectuated. **Defeated on a 6-4 party-line vote**
- HB 2242 COVID-19 immunization; prohibition on requirement; discrimination prohibited. Prohibits the state government from **requiring** any person to undergo vaccination for COVID-19 and prohibits discrimination based on a person's vaccination status with respect to any COVID-19 vaccine (i) with regard to education, employment, insurance, or issuance of a driver's license or other state identification or (ii) in numerous other contexts. The bill also prohibits the inclusion of any patient immunization information in the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS) unless the patient has consented, **Defeated 18-3 in the Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee**
- HB 2243 Home instruction and private school tax credit. Creates an individual, nonrefundable income tax credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, but before January 1, 2026, for amounts paid by the parent or legal guardian of a child for the child's home instruction expenses or tuition for attending an accredited private school in Virginia. **Defeated on a 6-4 party-line vote**
- HB 2244 Family life education curriculum guidelines; human reproduction; viewing of ultrasound video. Requires the instruction on human reproduction contained in the Board of Education's family life education curriculum guidelines to include the viewing of a video recording of an ultrasound of a live unborn human in the uterus. **Defeated on a 13-5 party-line vote in Democrat Speaker Filler Corn's Committee on Rules**
- HB 2246 State agencies; automatic workforce management verification software. Requires all state agencies with more than 20 full-time teleworking employees to use automatic workforce management verification software to verify the hours employees worked while teleworking. **Democrat House leadership refused to give this bill a hearing**
- HJ 573 COVID-19 vaccination; voluntary. Expresses the sense of the General Assembly that any vaccination for the COVID-19 virus shall be voluntary within the Commonwealth of Virginia and that it fully supports the practice of medical informed consent. **Speaker Filler Corn refused to give this legislation a hearing in her Committee on Rules**

See all my legislation from this and previous years at <https://www.votelarock.us/legislation>

## Delegate LaRock Budget Amendments

I introduced budget proposals that tackled a wide array of issues, ranging from election integrity and 2nd Amendment rights, to rewarding law enforcement and preserving our medical freedoms. Despite my best efforts, the Democrat-controlled Appropriations Committee and legislature defeated these initiatives:

- 68#4h Fully-fund the Commonwealth's share for Sheriffs positions - many in Loudoun & Frederick (\$8 million)
  - 86#3h Counting of Absentee Votes by precinct of residence, rather than single county-wide "Absentee Precinct"
  - 86#8h Department of Elections to confirm the accuracy of voter registration rolls 2x/year (Language Only)
  - 374#3h Operations funding to facilitate opening the new Sweet Run State Park in Loudoun County
  - C-72.70#1h Technical Change to upgrade the Frederick/Clarke area State Police Barracks (Language Only)
  - 4-0.01#3h Law Enforcement Collective Bargaining Agreement Transparency (Language Only)
  - 4-0.01#4h Prohibition Against Requiring Vaccination Unless Specific Criteria Are Met (Language Only)
  - 4-0.01#5h Limits on Executive Orders that Last Over 30 Days (Language Only)
  - 4-0.01#7h Allow online Training for Concealed Carry Permits while in COVID emergency (Language Only)
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## Budget and Other Items of Local Interest

**Loudoun Freedom Center Earmark vs Loudoun State Park** - Budgeting is balancing priorities. Having a legislator from our community assigned to the Appropriations Committee, as we do with Delegate David Reid, can help bring progress to projects like the new Loudoun State Park which lacks relatively little funding to be open to the public as a fully functional state park. I am sorry to report my request for park funding was ignored, and in a separate budget item, submitted at the request of Delegate David Reid, there will be a no-strings-attached earmark of \$255,000 going to his political allies at the Loudoun Freedom Center to stimulate production of intangible material. Acting through an obscure introduction into the budget hours before passage and misrepresented to the members of the House, laws which typically apply to this type of disbursement were waived, meaning there is no guarantee the material promised will actually be produced or be made available to the taxpayers who fund its production.

**Dulles Greenway Reform** - Finally, after many previous attempts to update the regulatory mechanisms governing toll rates on the privately-owned Dulles Greenway, the 2021 session saw passage of significant reforms. Working across the isle with Delegate Suhas Subramanyam and with Loudoun County staff, I helped achieve unanimous support for this long-overdue measure, HB 1832

**Slowing Down the I-81 Commission** - I'm committed to ensuring that the long-overdue improvements to Interstate 81 are completed in a cost-effective, transparent, and timely manner. Unfortunately, the Commission that oversees the funding and scheduling of these projects, chaired by Del. Wendy Gooditis (D-Clarke County), will now only be required to meet twice a year, rather than quarterly, due to a budget amendment Gooditis introduced.

**Governor-mandated shutdowns** - I continue to advocate for a rollback of the Governor's restrictions on the freedoms of all Virginians, and am a plaintiff on a lawsuit aimed at forcing such a reasonable return to individuals' ability to make informed decisions for themselves and their families, employees and customers' health and well-being. For more information on these efforts, visit <https://www.votelarock.us/issues/re-open-virginia>

I've also been doing what I can to **assist many constituents with unemployment issues** for the last 13 months- the fact that the Northam administration hasn't effectively utilized the billions of dollars the federal government has provided for COVID relief is inexcusable, especially considering the Northam-imposed shutdowns are responsible for much of the joblessness. For the fourth calendar quarter of 2020, the Commonwealth ranked last among all 50 states... for timeliness in deciding "non monetary issues."

I'm available to **assist individuals and businesses with DMV transactions** which COVID-related restrictions have made difficult or impossible to complete in a timely manner - just contact my office with your needs!

## My “Undo” List

**As the title suggests, some new laws passed this year are so bad, I will prioritize getting rid of them if I’m re-elected; there are many more than these, but these are some of the worst:**

HB 2032 Patron Delegate Wendy Gooditis (D- Clarke Co.) - Provides that individuals who are engaged in providing domestic service such as babysitting, tutoring, elderly care (for as little as a few hours a week) will be covered by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. The measure allows the government to do in-home inspections, and prohibits a family from acting on a preference to hire, for example, a female babysitter or caretaker when the family considers that to be appropriate. The measure empowers the Attorney General to enforce this new law.

HB 1904 / SB 1196 - Requires teacher, principal, and division superintendent evaluations to include an evaluation of cultural competency. This translates to forced indoctrination in all things “woke” for already well-trained teachers.

HB 2330 - Puts in motion a program to raise utility rates of some customers to pay other customers’ bills

HB 1909 - Permits School Boards to prohibit guns on all school-owned property. School Boards also control offices with adult workers in them, just like thousands of offices across the Commonwealth. It makes no sense to treat ancillary buildings as if they were a school with children in them.

HB 1992 - Expands the number of things that qualify as misdemeanor domestic violence beyond what the federal government uses to take away gun rights.

HB 2081 - Prohibits possession of a firearm within 40 feet of a polling place. There is no justification for this.

HB 2128 - Extends the number of days a person can be delayed in purchasing a firearm.

HB 1896 / SB 1276 - Removes the prohibition on the provision of coverage for abortions in any qualified health insurance plan that is sold or offered for sale through a health benefits exchange established or operating in Virginia. This violates the reasonable conscience protections afforded to those who see abortion as morally reprehensible.

HB 1932 - Repeals provisions that allowed child-placing agencies to refuse to perform, assist with, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer, or participate in any child placements when the proposed placement would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies. In addition to the obvious attempt to coerce and intimidate people of faith, the new law will interfere with adoption of thousands of children.

SB 1097 Absentee ballot witness signatures not required. Provides that a voter's failure to have a witness sign the absentee ballot envelope for any election held during a declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease or public health threat shall not be considered a material omission and shall not render the ballot void.

SB 1157 - Shifts all municipal elections for city and town council and school board from May to November, starting 1/1/2022. A very bad idea which intentionally manipulates election outcomes less reflective of issues of local interest.

SB 1245 Absentee voting; establishment of drop-off locations; preprocessing of returned absentee ballots before election day; cure process. The bill requires the establishment of drop-off locations. Additionally, the Department of Elections is directed to convene a work group to consider and evaluate methods for sorting absentee ballots by precinct and reporting absentee ballot totals by precincts. Unattended ballot drop-boxes break the chain of custody of a ballot.

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## Reparations/Social Justice

**I opposed:** HB 1980 - Six universities must (i) identify and memorialize, to the extent possible, all enslaved individuals who labored on former and current institutionally controlled grounds and property and (ii) provide a tangible benefit such as a college scholarship or community-based economic development program for individuals or specific communities with a demonstrated historic connection to slavery. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 1990 - Provides that the Chair of the House Committee for Courts of Justice or the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary may request a JLARC review and prepare a racial and ethnic impact statement for a proposed criminal justice bill to outline its potential impact on racial and ethnic disparities. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 1993 - Requires state agencies to establish and maintain a comprehensive diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan in coordination with the Governor's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2208 - Directs the Department of General Services to remove the statue of former Virginia Governor and U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr., from Capitol Square. The bill directs the Department to store the statue until such time as the General Assembly determines its final disposition. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HJ 537 - Recognizes that racism is a public health crisis in Virginia. **Passed**

## K-12 Schools and Higher Education

Our children have suffered immensely as the Covid-19 executive orders and local teachers unions and school boards block resumption of full time in-person. Ongoing school closures have been in place since March 2020, with associated loss of learning, well-documented evidence of children's declining mental health, and lack of socialization. The safety and well-being of our children must not be ignored. It is my hope that every school in the Commonwealth will offer in-person classes, five days a week for every K-12 student.

**I supported:** SB 1303 - Requires each school board to offer in-person instruction to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public elementary and secondary school for at least the minimum number of required instructional hours and to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public school-based early childhood care and education program for the entirety of the instructional time provided. **Passed, effective 7/1/2021**

**I supported:** HB 1865 - Requires reading intervention services for students in kindergarten through grade three who demonstrate deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards of Learning reading. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 1885 - Requires the Department of Education to perform a comprehensive review of the ongoing implementation of mandatory computer science standards in elementary schools and middle schools and the alignment of middle school and high school computer science courses and course pathways. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 1905 - Adds to objectives developed and approved by the Board of Education for economics education and financial literacy at the middle and high school levels the implications of various employment arrangements with regard to benefits, protections, and long-term financial sustainability. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 2027 - Virginia Board of Education to establish through-year growth assessment, in lieu of a one-time end-of-year assessment and for the purpose of providing measures of individual student growth over the course of the school year. Requires a through-year assessment system to include at least one beginning-of-year and one end-of-year assessment in order to provide individual student growth scores over the course of the school year. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 2119 - Exempts students who are (i) at least 18 years old, (ii) emancipated minors, or (iii) unaccompanied minors who are not in the physical custody of their parent or guardian from the requirement to participate in the parent/student component of a school's driver education program. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 1904 / SB 1196 - Requires teacher, principal, and division superintendent evaluations to include an evaluation of cultural competency. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2204 / SB 1405 - Establishes the Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back (G3) Fund and requires the Virginia Community College System to establish the G3 Program for the purpose of providing financial assistance from the Fund to certain low-income and middle-income Virginia students. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2123 / SB 1387 - Students meeting the criteria are eligible for in-state tuition **regardless of their citizenship or immigration status** and afforded the same benefits, including financial assistance programs. **Passed**

### **Education Budget Amendments**

- Item 145 #8c directs \$40 million to our public schools for learning loss
- Item 145 #10c funds the purchase of inhalers for availability in schools - see HB 2019
- Item 145 #11c directs \$153 million to cover 5% salary increases for teachers
- Item 150 #1c direct an additional \$600,000 to restore VTAG grants for online education

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## Veterans

**I supported:** HB 2308 - **Religious and charitable matters; quantity of land certain associations may hold.**

Increases from 75 to 200 the number of acres of land that any association or post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Spanish War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, or any similar association of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States chartered by an act of Congress may hold if an ordinance to that effect is adopted by the governing body of the locality in which the property is located. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 2337 - **Income tax; subtraction for low-income military veterans with a permanent service-connected disability.** Provides an income tax subtraction for the military retirement income received by a veteran who has been rated with a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability for taxable years on and after January 1, 2021. The bill provides that the subtraction is available only to those taxpayers whose federal adjusted gross income is not greater than 150 percent of the federal poverty level for a four-person household. **Failed**

## Striving for Safe Neighborhoods

It would be remiss of me not to highlight the radical transformation of our criminal justice system thanks to the Democrat-controlled General Assembly. After the reckless and wanton damage we saw in Richmond last summer, Virginia Democrats were not satisfied. They pushed forward a variety of bills this session, many of which reduce penalties for certain crimes, and could further embolden criminals going forward.

**I opposed:** HB 1936 - Robbery; penalties. Creates lower levels of punishment for various robbery offenses. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2004 - Virginia Freedom of Information Act; law-enforcement criminal incident information; criminal investigative files. Adds criminal investigative files relating to a criminal investigation or proceeding that is not ongoing to the types of law-enforcement and criminal records required to be released in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. - Expanding public inspection of criminal investigation files **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2038 - Limits the amount of active incarceration a court can impose as a result of a revocation hearing for a probation violation. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2113 / SB 1339 - Establishes a process for the automatic expungement of criminal records for certain convictions, deferred dispositions, and acquittals and for offenses that have been nolle prossed or otherwise dismissed. - Makes it easier to seal and expunge record of criminal convictions **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2263 / SB 1165 - Abolishes the death penalty, including for those persons currently under a death sentence. The bill provides that no person may be sentenced to death or put to death on or after its effective date for any violation of law. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2290 - Repeals the enhanced penalties for a second or subsequent misdemeanor larceny conviction. Under current law, when a person is convicted of a second larceny offense, he shall be confined in jail not less than 30 days nor more than 12 months, and for a third, or any subsequent offense, he shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony. **Passed**

**I opposed:** SB 1138 - Provides that any person who is diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection and engages in sexual behavior that poses a substantial risk of transmission to another person according to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations regarding such risk of transmission with the intent to transmit the infection to another person and transmits such infection to that person is guilty of infected sexual battery, punishable as Class 1 misdemeanor. Under current law, the crime of infected battery is punishable as a Class 6 felony. **Passed**

**I opposed:** SB 1261 - Expands jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals of Virginia, effective January 1, 2022 and packs the court by increasing from 11 to 17 the number of judges on the Court of Appeals, effective July 1, 2021. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2045 - Abolish law enforcement sovereign immunity. Creates a civil action for the deprivation of a person's rights by a law-enforcement officer and provides that a plaintiff may be awarded compensatory damages, punitive damages, and equitable relief as well as reasonable attorney fees and costs. **Defeated in committee**

**I opposed:** HB 2331 - Eliminates mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes. **Defeated in committee**

**I supported:** HB 2133 - Establishes a procedure for victims of sex trafficking to file a petition of vacatur in circuit court to have certain convictions vacated and the police and court records expunged for such convictions. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 2167 - Parole; notice and certification; monthly reports; discretionary early consideration. - Reinstatement of parole **Passed**

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## Election Integrity

More on my efforts in this area is on my website at <https://www.votelarock.us/issues/election-integrity>

**I opposed:** SB 1157 - Shifting municipal elections to November. Shifts all municipal elections for city and town council and school board from May to November, beginning with elections held after January 1, 2022. All towns in the 33rd District opposed this effort to intentionally make local election outcomes less reflective of issues of local interest.

**I opposed:** SB 1097 Absentee ballot witness signatures not required. Provides that a voter's failure to have a witness sign the absentee ballot envelope for any election held during a declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat shall not be considered a material omission and shall not render the ballot void.

**I opposed:** SB 1245 Absentee voting; establishment of drop-off locations; preprocessing of returned absentee ballots before election day; cure process. The bill requires the establishment of drop-off locations. Requires actions be taken to process absentee ballots returned before the day of an election, including verifying the correct completion of the voter affirmation statement, and provides for an opportunity for an absentee voter to make corrections to the statement in certain circumstances. Additionally, the Department of Elections is directed to convene a work group to consider and evaluate methods for sorting absentee ballots by precinct and reporting absentee ballot totals by precincts.

## **Employment, Taxes, Business and the Economy**

**I supported:** SB 1341 - Association health plans for real estate salespersons (association); such an association health plan is not considered to be insurance and is not subject to the existing requirements for insurance if certain requirements are met. Rather than allow this lower-cost alternative to Obamacare, Democrats **Killed it in Committee**

**I supported:** HB 1935 / SB 1146 - Conformity of the Commonwealth's taxation system with the Internal Revenue Code, and deconforms from the suspension of the overall limitation on itemized deductions and the reduction in the medical expense deduction floor for taxable year 2017 and taxable years on and after January 1, 2019, and from the provisions of the federal CARES Act related to the net operating loss limitation and carryback, a loss limitation applicable to taxpayers other than corporations, the limitation on business interest, and certain loan forgiveness and other business financial assistance. Provides an individual and corporate income tax deduction or subtraction, as applicable, of up to \$100,000 for Rebuild Virginia grants and certain amounts related to Paycheck Protection Program loans.

**I supported:** HB 2134 - Prohibits the consideration, in any determination regarding whether an individual is an employee or independent contractor, for the purposes of a civil action for employment misclassification, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation, of the provision of personal protective equipment by a hiring party to the individual in response to a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat for which a state of emergency has been declared.

**I supported:** HB 2192 - Requires support orders to contain a provision requiring an obligor to keep the Department of Social Services or a court informed of, in addition to the name, address, and telephone number of his current employer, any change to his employment status and if he has filed a claim for or is receiving unemployment benefits.

**I supported:** SB 1209 - Provides that in an action against a general contractor for nonpayment of wages to a subcontractor's employees, the general contract may offer as evidence a written certification that (i) the subcontractor and each of his sub-subcontractors has paid all employees all wages due for the period during which the wages are claimed for the work performed on the project and (ii) to the subcontractor's knowledge all sub-subcontractors have also paid their employees. The bill also provides that the terms "general contractor" and "subcontractor" shall not include persons solely furnishing materials for the purposes of the liability of a contractor for wages due to a subcontractor's employees. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 1755 - Right to work Repeal. Repeals the provisions of the Code of Virginia that, among other things, prohibit any agreement or combination between an employer and a labor union or labor organization whereby (i) nonmembers of the union or organization are denied the right to work for the employer, (ii) membership in the union or organization is made a condition of employment or continuation of employment by such employer, or (iii) the union or organization acquires an employment monopoly in any such enterprise. **Died in Committee**

**I opposed:** HB 1864 / SB 1310 - Expands the definition of "employer" for all purposes of the Virginia Human Rights Act to include a person employing one or more domestic workers, as defined in the bill. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2032 - Provides that individuals who are engaged in providing domestic service such as babysitting, tutoring, elderly care (for as little as a few hours a week) will be covered by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. The measure allows the government to do in-home inspections, and prohibits a family from acting on a preference to hire, for example, a female babysitter or caretaker when the family considers that to be appropriate. The measure empowers the Attorney General to enforce this new law. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2137 - Requires employers to provide paid sick leave to home health workers who provide personal care, respite, or companion services to an individual who receives consumer-directed services under the state plan for medical assistance services. Such an employee is eligible for paid sick leave under the bill if the employee is an essential worker and works on average at least 20 hours per week or 90 hours per month. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 1780 - Public employees; prohibition on striking; exception. Exempts employees of a local school board from the prohibition on striking, and from termination of employment for striking, by public employees. Under legislation passed in 2020, teachers and other public employees may be able to engage in collective bargaining beginning May 1, 2021. If this legislation had passed, they would have been enabled to strike if they aren't getting what union bosses want, throwing the education of students "under the bus". **Died in Committee**



## Energy, Utilities, and the Environment

**I supported:** HB 1760 / SB 1199 - Conservation easements; construction. Provides that an easement held pursuant to the Virginia Conservation Easement Act or the Open-Space Land Act shall be construed in favor of achieving the conservation purposes for which it was created.

**I supported:** HB 1763 - Tax credit; agricultural best management practices. Creates an enhanced individual and corporate income tax credit for taxable years 2021 through 2024 for the implementation of certain agricultural best management practices by the taxpayer that are required as part of a certified resource management plan.

**I opposed:** HB 1902 - Expanded polystyrene food service containers; prohibition; civil penalty. Prohibits the dispensing by a food vendor of prepared food to a customer in a single-use expanded polystyrene food service container, as defined in the bill. The bill requires certain chain restaurants to stop using such containers by July 1, 2023,

**I opposed:** HB 1965 - State Air Pollution Control Board; low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle program. Directs the State Air Pollution Control Board to implement a low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle program for motor vehicles with a model year of 2025 and later.

**I opposed:** HB 2330 - Electric utilities; Requires the Dpt. of Social Services, in consultation with the Dept. of Housing and Community Development, to adopt rules or establish guidelines for the adoption, implementation, and general administration of the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP) and the Percentage of Income Payment Fund. The bill requires the PIPP to commence no later than one year after the Department publishes such rules or guidelines and establishes the Fund for the purposes of implementing and administering the PIPP.

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## Healthcare and Medical

**I Supported** HB 1913/SB 1205 - Expands civil immunity for health care professionals serving as members of or consultants to entities that function primarily to review, evaluate, or make recommendations related to health care services to include health care professionals serving as members of or consultants to entities that function primarily to address issues related to career fatigue and wellness in health care professionals licensed, registered, or certified by the Boards of Medicine, Nursing, or Pharmacy, or in students enrolled in a school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, or pharmacy located in the Commonwealth. **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 1987/SB 1338 - Requires the Board of Medical Assistance Services to amend the state plan for medical assistance to provide for payment of medical assistance for remote patient monitoring services provided via telemedicine for certain high-risk patients, makes clear that nothing shall preclude health insurance carriers from providing coverage for services delivered through real-time audio-only telephone that are not telemedicine, and clarifies rules around prescribing of Schedule II through VI drugs via telemedicine, including establishing a practitioner-patient relationship via telemedicine. **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 2002 - Provides that in any case in which a petitioner is seeking to establish child support, the intake officer shall provide the petitioner information on the possible availability of medical assistance through the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) plan or other government-sponsored coverage through the Department of Medical Assistance Services. The bill also requires the Department of Social Services to refer children for whom it has issued an order directing the payment of child support to the FAMIS plan if it appears that the gross income of the custodial parent is equal to or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 2007 - Directs the Department of Health to enter into a contract or an agreement with a nonprofit data services organization to collect, compile, and make available on its website information about prescription drug pricing and requires every health carrier, pharmacy benefits manager, and drug manufacturer to report information about prescription drug prices to the nonprofit data services organization with which the Department of Health has entered into a contract for such purpose. **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 2008 - Requires that any provider contract between a carrier and a participating health care provider with prescriptive authority, or its contracting agent, contain provisions that require, when a carrier has previously approved prior authorization for any drug prescribed for the treatment of a mental disorder listed in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 2079 - Expands provisions governing the initiation of treatment with and dispensing and administering of drugs and devices by pharmacists to allow the initiation of treatment with and dispensing and administering of drugs, devices, and controlled paraphernalia to persons 18 years of age or older, in accordance with protocols developed by the Board of Pharmacy, Board of Medicine and the Department of Health **Passed**

## Second Amendment

**I supported:** HB 2298 - Removes the requirement that the propellant be loaded along with the projectile or projectiles in the definitions of muzzleloading rifle and muzzleloading shotgun. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 2310 - Provides that any applicant for a concealed handgun permit who completed an online course to demonstrate competence with a handgun and contacted the circuit court clerk's office prior to January 1, 2021, but was prohibited from appearing in person at a circuit court clerk's office because of COVID-19 restrictions is eligible to apply for such permit through April 30, 2021. The bill contains an emergency clause. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 1773 - "Constitutional Carry" allows a person who qualifies to get a Virginia concealed handgun permit to be able to carry a concealed handgun without a permit anywhere that person could lawfully openly carry a handgun. 16 other states already have Constitutional Carry and no state has ever repealed it. **Killed in committee**

**I supported:** HB 1793 - exempts concealed handgun permit holders from any local gun-control. The Virginia State Police keep track of concealed handgun permit revocations for any reason, and those revocations are a fraction of one percent for Virginia's 700,000 permit holders. There is no public safety reason to prohibit permit holders from carrying a handgun everywhere they go. They have jumped through every hoop the state has required, have squeaky-clean backgrounds, and have proven themselves to be outstanding citizens. **Killed in committee**

**I supported:** HB 2285 - adds someone with a valid non-resident concealed carry permit and retired police officers to the list of exemptions to One Handgun a Month. This cleanup bill, bringing in some obvious exemptions, was **Killed in committee**

**I opposed:** HB 1909 - Permits School Boards to prohibit guns on all school-owned property. School Boards also control offices with adult workers in them, just like thousands of offices across the Commonwealth. It makes no sense to ancillary buildings as if they were a school with children in them. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 1992 - Expands the number of things that qualify as misdemeanor domestic violence beyond what the federal government uses to take away gun rights. There is no provision to restore rights in the bill and it would create a lifetime ban on gun ownership for a mere misdemeanor. From a gun-rights perspective, under this bill, the person charged would be better off seriously harming the other person and getting a felony conviction, from which their gun-rights could eventually be restored. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2081 - Prohibits possession of a firearm within 40 feet of a polling place. The given reason for this bill was voter intimidation. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2128 - Extends number of days a person can be delayed in purchasing a firearm. This bill could make a person wait up to five business days for a background check approval, which would take more pressure off the government to do a timely background check when someone is trying to obtain personal protection. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2295 / SB 1381 - A solution in search of a problem. There have been no events that justify stripping the citizens of their right to self-defense. Citizens have been carrying on Capitol grounds and buildings for many years responsibly and without incident. While senators and delegates can be escorted to their vehicles by armed Capitol Police, this takes away citizens' ability to protect themselves while at the Capitol. **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2276 - Makes most homemade guns illegal. The bill was written without a clear understanding of current law on homemade guns for a person's own use, which has been legal since America's founding. **Died in a conference committee**

**I opposed:** HB 2319 - Requires a person cohabiting with another person who is prohibited from possessing firearms, secures firearms and ammunition so the prohibited person does not have access to them. There are two serious flaws with this bill. 1) requiring a gun that is stored locked and inaccessible to the prohibited person and unloaded is unreasonable and makes the firearm unusable by the gun's owner in an emergency. 2) requiring the ammunition be stored separately from the ammunition is also unreasonable. Unless the gun and ammunition can be stored in the same vault, the gun owner needs two vaults. **Died in a Senate committee**

## **COVID- Testing/Vaccines, Medical Freedom, Emergency Orders**

**I Supported** SB 1356 - Requires the Board of Health to include in regulations governing hospitals, nursing homes, certified nursing facilities, and hospices and the Board of Social Services to include in regulations governing assisted living facilities a requirement that, during a public health emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat, each hospital, nursing home, certified nursing facility, hospice, and assisted living facility establish a protocol to allow patients to receive visits from a rabbi, priest, minister, or clergy of any religious denomination or sect consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and subject to compliance with any executive order, order of public health, Department of Health guidance, or any other applicable federal or state guidance having the effect of limiting visitation. **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 1891 - Requires the Department of Human Resource Management, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources or his designee, to develop an online training module addressing safety and disaster awareness, including information on public health safety. Requires such training to be incorporated into existing mandatory training. **Passed**

**I Supported** SB 1131 - Limits the duration of any executive order issued by the Governor pursuant to his powers under the Emergency Services and Disaster Law to no more than 45 days from the date of issuance. **Defeated**

**I Supported** SB 1378 - Limits the duration of any rule, regulation, or order issued by the Governor pursuant to his powers under the Emergency Services and Disaster Law to no more than 30 days from the date of issuance. **Defeated**

**I Supported** HB 1985 / HB 2207 - Workers' compensation; presumption of compensability for COVID-19. Establishes a presumption that COVID-19 causing the death or disability of health care providers is an occupational disease compensable under the Workers' Compensation Act. HB 2207 extends such compensation benefits to firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, law-enforcement officers, correctional officers, and regional jail officers **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 2333 / SB 1445 - Facilitates the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. The bill requires the Department of Health (the Department) to establish a program to enable eligible health care providers to volunteer to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to residents of the Commonwealth during a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic declared by the Governor. **Passed**

**I Supported** HB 2066 - Provides that any system created by the Department of Health to receive information regarding an alleged violation of an order or regulation of the Board of Health or the Commissioner of Health enacted in response to a public health emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat shall require, for each report received, the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the individual making the report. The bill makes knowingly making a false report of such violation a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill contains an emergency clause. **Defeated**

**I Supported** HB 2268 / SB 1116 - Powers of State Health Commissioner in epidemic; vaccine; religious tenets or practices. Allows a parent or guardian to object to the vaccination or immunization of a child on the grounds that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his religious tenets or practices, even if an emergency or epidemic of disease has been declared by the State Board of Health, which is not allowed under current law. **Defeated**

**I Supported** HB 2335 - Fundamental right to be free from medical mandates. Declares that, except as otherwise provided by law, each adult has a fundamental right to be free from medical mandates of the Commonwealth or any locality, private employer, health care entity or provider, or provider of public accommodations. The bill defines "medical mandate" as any affirmative requirement by the Commonwealth or any locality, private employer, health care entity or provider, or provider of public accommodations for an individual to undergo or participate in a health-related test, procedure, tracking or monitoring program, or bodily insertion or injection of any drug or the wearing of any medical equipment or apparel. **Defeated**

**I Supported** SB 1117 - Immunizations; religious tenets or practices. Allows a parent or guardian to object to the vaccination or immunization of a child on the grounds that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his religious tenets or practices, even if an emergency or epidemic of disease has been declared by the State Board of Health, which is not allowed under current law. **Defeated**

## Life / Values / Religious Liberty

**I supported:** HB 2190 - Wrongful death beneficiaries. Provides that an award in a wrongful death action, where there is no surviving spouse of the decedent, children of the decedent, or children of a deceased child of the decedent, shall be distributed to the parents, brothers and sisters of the decedent, and any other relative who is primarily dependent on the decedent for support or services and is also a member of the same household as the decedent. **Passed**

**I supported:** HB 2084/SB 1235 - Prohibits any person employed by or who has entered into a contract to provide services on behalf of the Department of Health or a local department of health from initiating communication regarding health-related matters with a minor on behalf of the Department or local department of health without the consent of the minor's parent. **Killed in a House Committee**

**I Opposed:** HB 1896 / SB 1276 - Removes the prohibition on the provision of coverage for abortions in any qualified health insurance plan that is sold or offered for sale through a health benefits exchange established or operating in Virginia. **Passed**

**I Opposed:** SB 1178 - Repeals the conscience clause for genetic counselors who forgo participating in counseling that conflicts with their deeply held moral or religious beliefs, provided that they inform the patient and offer to direct the patient to the online directory of licensed genetic counselors maintained by the Board of Medicine. The law being repealed also prohibits the licensing of any genetic counselor from being contingent upon participating in such counseling. **Passed**

**I Opposed:** HJ 582 / SJ 270 - Repeal and Replace Natural Marriage - Constitutional amendment (first reference); marriage; repeal of same-sex marriage prohibition; affirmative right to marry. Repeals the constitutional provision defining marriage as only a union between one man and one woman as well as the related provisions that are no longer valid as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015). The amendment provides that the right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of persons and requires the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions and agents to issue marriage licenses, recognize marriages, and treat all marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex or gender of the parties to the marriage. **Passed, but will need to pass the legislature again and be approved by voters in 2022 in order to be enacted**

**I opposed:** HB 1932 - Repeals provisions that allowed child-placing agencies to refuse to perform, assist with, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer, or participate in any child placements when the proposed placement would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies. **Passed**

- This bill repeals the entire statutory conscience protection that includes licensing. Therefore, any agency that remains committed to their deeply held religious tenets regarding natural marriage could be subject to complaints and loss of license to even participate in the state's child placement services.
- Repealing the religious conscience clause will not expand the number of families who foster/adopt, **but rather result in a reduction of the number of qualified families**. In 2011, Illinois passed a law ending its partnerships with faith-based agencies, and **between 2012 and 2019 Illinois lost 5,352 foster homes**, the most significant decrease in any state that reported this data.
- Faith-based agencies are able to inspire new foster and adoptive parents, thus *increasing* the pool of available parents.
- **There already exist plenty of options for same-sex couples who wish to foster/adopt**. There are more than 150 agencies licensed in Virginia, the majority of which have no religious mission and may be open to working with same-sex couples.
- Private foster care agencies DO NOT place children in homes – it's the local social services social worker who makes those determinations. Private agencies recruit, train, and support families so that the DSS social worker can focus on identifying families that best meet that child's specific needs.

**I opposed:** SB 1321 - Expands the stepparent adoption provisions to allow a person who is not the child's stepparent but has a legitimate interest in the child to file a joint petition for adoption with the child's birth parent or parent by adoption. (expands who can be a parent). **Passed**

**I opposed:** HB 2168 - Illegal gambling; skill games; civil penalty; enforcement by localities and Attorney General. Provides that any person who conducts, finances, manages, supervises, directs, or owns a gambling device that is located in an unregulated location is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$25,000. Provides that the Attorney General, an attorney for the Commonwealth, or the attorney for any locality may cause an action in equity to be brought in the name of the Commonwealth or of the locality, as applicable, to enjoin the operation of a gambling device in violation of this section and may request attachment against all such devices and any moneys within such devices. **Passed**