April 12, 2019

First and Last name

Address

City, ST Zip

Dear firstname,

I hope this message finds you well. Spring is in the air, finally! After spending most of January and February in Richmond working as your elected Delegate, I want to share some highlights of the 2019 General Assembly.

Along with adjusting the laws of Virginia, the legislature develops a biennial budget. Rest assured I am committed to a conservative approach of maintaining high level of service while balancing the state budget and keeping taxes low for hardworking Virginians. I’m pleased to report House Republicans prioritized many important initiatives:

* Passing nearly $1 billion dollars in tax relief
* Making college more affordable
* Improving our public education system
* Preparing our workforce for the 21st century
* Funding improvements to Interstate 81
* Standing up for human life
* Improving our roads
* Keeping our children safe in school
* Expanding high-quality, affordable internet access
* Providing more affordable health care options
* Fighting the opioid crisis
* Defending against anti-business initiatives
* Supporting our veterans

My priorities include improving access to affordable rural internet service; lowering tolls on the Greenway, Dulles Toll Road, and I-66 inside the beltway; prioritizing and funding improvements to I-81; restoring road construction funding that was diverted to Metro in 2018; and standing up for life. I introduced numerous bills and budget amendments this year, including several suggestions brought to me by 33rd District constituents.

Below are highlights of the 2019 session with a focus on the legislation I have been working on. I realize there’s a lot of reading material here. The index below directs you to the topics that may interest you most.

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**Ongoing Community and Constituent Efforts**

* **Opposing New Taxes:** Building and maintaining a safe and efficient transportation system is a core government responsibility. However, we have a responsibility to ensure that existing funds are being utilized effectively. I voted against regional tax increases in Northern Virginia to fund Metro; instead we should impose special assessments on the real estate owned by developers near the stations all around the system. Likewise, in the Shenandoah Valley, I favored efforts for users of I-81 (many out-of-state) to pay for necessary improvements, rather than imposing sales and gas taxes on local residents who don’t use I-81.
* **Restorative Justice:** I have led in the fight to restore drivers’ licenses revoked for court fines and fees, allowing over 600,000 Virginians to provide for themselves and their families. It is an absolute necessity to fight the drug abuse crisis which is impacting all communities. I have led and supported efforts on Naloxone availability, drug courts, education, workforce and reentry initiatives, and drug treatment to help at-risk populations break free from the cycle of addiction and be productive members of society.
* **Improving Transportation:** While we have successfully made several significant reforms to transportation funding over the last six years, there is more to be done. Recently-proposed allocations of state funds show that the Governor’s staff still has far too much discretion to send money to projects like those around the Amazon HQ2 in Arlington, rather than congestion-relief projects in Loudoun and elsewhere. I am continuing to push for greater accountability, transparency, and congestion-relief. Information on local transportation projects is on my website at https://www.votelarock.us/issues/local-transportation-projects.
* **Broadband expansion:** Affordable high-speed internet is a growing necessity for families and businesses. This is not an easily-solved problem, and not one the government can spend our way out of. I met with local and state experts and introduced legislation directed at lowering barriers to broadband expansion in the Commonwealth. Opposition from electric cooperatives stalled this, but I will keep fighting on this issue.

While the legislative session is completed, my work as a legislator is not. I continue to work on local issues, resolve constituent concerns with state agencies, and meet with constituents around the district.

**Here are a few recent comments:**

*Delegate LaRock, the median got mowed today. I don’t think it would have happened without your involvement. Again, thank you for your assistance in getting this hazardous situation taken care of.* ***Clarke Co. constituent***

*Thank you for the incredible courage and leadership you’ve shown on [Abolishing revocation of driver’s licenses for unpaid fines and fees]! We are thrilled at the impact you’ve made…. Looking forward to more opportunities to make the justice system reflect our shared values in years ahead.* ***Director of State Policy, Prison Fellowship***

*Dave, Thanks so much for assisting me with this. I might have never gotten a response from the Department of Taxation without your intervention.* ***Constituent from Hamilton***

*Thanks Dave for your successful shepherding of the bill to allow volunteer fire companies and rescue squads the ability to purchase fuel through the state bulk buying contract. This is truly a win-win for everyone. I truly appreciate all your time and work and truly appreciate you listening to our concerns.* ***Chris Shipe, Enders Fire Co.***

If there is anything I can do to assist you, please contact me. My mailing address is PO Box 6, Hamilton, VA 20159, phone is 540-751-8364 and email is DelDLaRock@house.virginia.gov. My website is www.VoteLaRock.us, where you can find helpful information, contact me, or read and **sign up for my email updates**. You can also follow me on Facebook and Twitter for more frequent information. I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope to continue serving you in future years.

Sincerely,



**Budget highlights**

One key piece of legislation we passed this session was a conservative and balanced budget. The budget is the most important responsibility of the General Assembly. We balanced the budget as our constitution requires, without raising taxes, by removing over $1 billion in new spending proposed by Governor Northam. Our budget deposits an additional $565.5 in the Revenue Reserve Fund bringing our total cash reserves to $1.45 billion. This reflects the prudent and responsible long-term approach Virginia takes to its finances. The 2-year budget includes:

* A 5% teacher pay raise and $85.7 million in new funding for K-12 education. (The 4th teacher pay raise in six years).
* $19 million ($15m new) for broadband funding
* $57 million to freeze tuition at our colleges and universities
* Increased financial aid by $16 million and increased workforce grant spending to $13.5 million per year.
* Strong language to prohibit taxpayer funding for abortions and to organizations like Planned Parenthood.

**Delegate LaRock Budget Requests**

**66 #3h and 73 #2h - Fully Fund Law Enforcement Ratio for Additional Deputy Sheriffs**

Fully-funding the state’s statutorily-authorized funding of deputy sheriffs. 241 additional deputies would have been funded by this amendment~~,~~ to address school safety and law enforcement needs in 42 of the Commonwealth’s 83 counties with no police force. Nearly half of these deputies would go to Loudoun (100) and Frederick (13) Counties.

**130 #3h and 134 #11h - HB2574 - Alternative Performance-Based Assessments**

Allow “School Divisions of Innovation” to provide Performance-Based Assessments, as opposed to Standardized tests, for certain topics. Despite broad support from educators, corresponding legislation was killed in the Senate.

**134 #10h - HB2568 - Child Safety Savings Accounts**

Funding start-up costs for Child Safety Savings Accounts, designed to help students who have been the victims of crimes at their school to afford education alternatives. The legislation attached to this bill was defeated.

**348 #3h - Review Records for Public Assistance Eligibility**

$150,000 in start-up costs to ensure that individuals are not fraudulently collecting public assistance funds for which they are not legally eligible. My legislation on this has been vetoed by the Governor in the past.

**363 #5h - New Loudoun County State Park**

Start-up funding for Loudoun’s new State Park.

**374 #4h - Clermont Foundation**

Ensuring sufficient funding to replace a state-owned agricultural education facility in Berryville

**395 #4h - Skyline Regional Criminal Justice Academy**

Supporting continued appropriate funding for the Criminal Justice Academy in the Northern Shenandoah Valley

**433 #1h and 433 #2h - I-66 and I-395 "Commuter Choice" Program to NVTA**

Outrageous Tolls on I-66 inside the beltway, and upcoming tolls on I-395, are sent to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), which is supposed to use them to benefit toll-payers. Instead, the NVTC has wasted over a million dollars on 3 BikeShare projects and bike racks, $250,000 on “Transportation Information Screens”, $800,000 on administration and promotional efforts, and $800,000 on 2 non-beneficial projects. Governors McAuliffe and Northam have also exempted DC, Maryland, and Inside-the-beltway residents (reverse-commuters) from the impact of the tolls, while those same areas receive much of the funding for their local projects. These amendments would fix the inequality and provided $45-55 million/year to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) to replace revenues diverted to WMATA, and fund needed improvements to the I-66 and I-95 corridors.

**4-5.04 #1h - Restriction on Funding for Abortion Services (Language Only)**

Recent years have seen the taxpayers of the Commonwealth fund an average of 25 abortions per year of babies who may potentially be disabled. While minimal data is available, it is likely that the majority of these taxpayer-funded, disability-selection abortions are also late-term, near or after the age of fetal viability. My amendment will limit Virginia taxpayer funding of abortions to the federally-required rape, incest, and life-of-the-mother situations.

**Del. LaRock’s 2019 Legislation- Successfully Passed, and Becoming Law July 1, 2019:**

**HB 2569 Regulation of child-care services and facilities.** Provides for more efficient approval of in-home family day care centers, by allowing administrative approval when there are no concerns with the application. By removing unnecessary regulations and increasing competition, costs and availability of these services should improve.

**HB 2572 Charter; Town of Berryville.**   Reorganizes the charter of the Town of Berryville.   Specific amendments include (i) an update to the boundary description, (ii) replacing the position of recorder with vice mayor, (iii) specifying certain town council appointments, and (iv) removing or updating obsolete provisions.

**HB 2805 Parking; access aisles adjacent to parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.** Prohibits parking any vehicle in any striped access aisle adjacent to a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities. This is a concern which was brought to me by a constituent whom has frequently encountered these violations.

**SJ 254 Study; Department of Transportation; purchase of the Dulles Greenway; report.** I assisted Sen. Dick Black in presenting this bill, directing VDOT to (i) review of the Greenway's outstanding bonds to determine if such bonds could be replaced with lower rate revenue bonds; (ii) devise an optimized buy-back plan that would allow Virginia to obtain a partial ownership in the Greenway in order to pass along any resulting cost reductions to motorists with a dollar-for-dollar reduction in tolls and the implementation of distance-based pricing; (iii) determine what ownership percentage the Commonwealth would need to hold to enact toll-reducing measures, including granting tax-free status to the Greenway and eliminating the current fees charged for State Police patrols while allowing VDOT to operate and maintain the road, including snow removal; and (iv) evaluate the feasibility of distance-based tolling on the Dulles Greenway.

**Del. LaRock’s 2019 Legislation- Passed the House, but Died in the Senate:**

**HB 2570 Family life education programs; student participation.** Prohibits any public elementary or secondary school student from participating in any family life education program without the prior written consent of his parent.

**HB 2574 School Divisions of Innovation; Replace certain SOL’s with performance-based assessments.** While accountability and effectiveness is necessary, educators and parents understand the need for flexibility from the state- mandated requirement of massive tests as the only way to evaluate progress in every subject area. The bill allows a local school board, when applying for its school division to be designated as a School Division of Innovation, to apply to the Board of Education to replace certain Standards of Learning assessments (SOL’s) with performance-based assessments.

**HB 2594 Traffic incident management vehicles.** Would have significantly reduced accident-related delays on Virginia highways, by allowing VDOT traffic incident management vehicles, when operated by persons who meet certain training requirements, to drive on shoulders, use lights and sirens.

**Del. LaRock’s 2019 Legislation Requiring Further Ongoing Efforts:**

**HB 2566 Real and personal property tax exemptions.** Repeals the property tax exemptions for all nonprofit entities that were granted by the General Assembly by designation, effective July 1, 2024. In 2003, the voters of Virginia agreed with the legislature that these exemptions to local taxation should be granted locally; this bill would give localities & entities five years to re-instate the exemption locally, if the entity is still eligible, and repeal obsolete state-granted exemptions.

**HB 2567 Public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth; free exercise of religion on campus.** Provides that, except as otherwise permitted by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, no public institution of higher education shall prohibit the free exercise of religion by any individual, including enrolled students, faculty and other employees, and invited guests, on campus.

**HB 2568 Child Safety Savings Accounts established.** Permits the parents of certain children who are victims of bullying, certain crimes, and certain other violent acts to apply to the school division in which the child resides for a one-year, renewable Child Safety Savings Account. The bill permits the parent to use the moneys in such account for certain education-related expenses of the student, including tuition, deposits, fees, and required textbooks at a private elementary school or secondary school that is located in the Commonwealth.

**Del. LaRock’s 2019 Legislation Requiring Further Ongoing Efforts (continued):**

**HB 2571 Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Transportation Commission; funding.** Creates the Interstate 81 Corridor Transportation Commission, embracing the localities located in planning districts 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The Commission would be responsible for allocating any revenues received, if tolls are placed on Interstate 81, for improvements within the Interstate 81 corridor.

**HB 2573 Utility easements; pole attachments.** Removes cost barriers to broadband deployment by declaring that a public service company that has acquired a prescriptive easement that is used to provide electrical service is deemed to have the right to grant to a provider of broadband or other telecommunications services the right to attach its wires and appurtenant facilities to the public service company's poles, subject to the conditions.

**HB 2575 Additional real property tax on commercial and industrial property in certain localities.** As an alternative to tolls and gas and sales tax increases for I-81 funding, would authorize counties and cities in the I-81 corridor to impose an additional real estate tax on commercial and industrial property at a rate of up to $0.10 per $100 of assessed value. Any revenue raised from such tax would be required to be used to pay for transportation costs. Under current law, only localities in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads are authorized to impose such a tax.

**HB 2799 Dulles Greenway. Amends the powers and responsibilities of the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to regulate toll road operators under the Virginia Highway Corporation Act of 1988.** Would add requirements that toll rates not materially discourage the public's use of the toll road, that the cost of operating the toll road be reasonably apportioned across all toll road users based on the relative distance each class of user travels on the toll road, and that toll rates shall provide the operator with no more than a reasonable return. In addition, (i) requires the SCC, by October 1, 2019, to initiate an investigation into the tolls charged by all operators subject to the Act and to issue a ruling by April 1, 2020, on its investigation as to whether the current tolls charged by the operator comply with such new requirements

**HB 2804 Virginia Public Procurement Act; professional and information technology project services contracts; verification of work.** Requires state agencies contracting for professional and information technology project services to include provisions in such contracts that require contractors to allow verification of hours worked on a project.

**HB 2806 Local government; codification of ordinances; affirmative defense.** Requires each locality to codify all ordinances, in permanently bound or loose-leaf form or in an online format so as to be easily accessed by other governmental entities and the public. The bill provides that any person who is the subject of an action brought by a locality for violation of an ordinance is entitled to assert as an affirmative defense that the ordinance was not codified and therefore failed to provide adequate notice to the public of the contents of the ordinance.

**HJ 683 Constitutional amendment; Transportation Funds.** Requires the General Assembly to maintain permanent and separate Transportation Funds, and limits the use of Transportation Funds moneys to transportation and related purposes. The amendment specifies that the General Assembly may borrow from the Transportation Funds for other purposes only by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house and that the loan must be repaid with reasonable interest within four years.

**HJ 684 Board of Education; code of ethics and professional responsibility for educators in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth; report.** Requests the Board of Education to establish a code of ethics and professional responsibility for educators in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth that contains certain prohibitions relating to instructional content.

**HJ 694 Study; Virginia State Police; air emergency medical services; report.** Requests the Virginia State Police to study the availability and affordability of air emergency medical services throughout the Commonwealth. Currently, these services are funded through vehicle registration fees collected state-wide, but the service is only provided in some areas. In areas where the service is not provided, residents often receive massive bills for private air ambulance service after experiencing an accident or other serious medical emergency.

**A comprehensive list of all my bills, resolutions, and budget amendments from all six sessions is available on my website at https://www.votelarock.us/legislation**

**Other Legislation of Interest – Helping Those in Need**

**Passed – HB2577 Health Insurance; coverage for autism spectrum disorder.** Requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder in individuals of any age. Currently, such coverage is required to be provided for individuals from age two through age 10.

**Passed – HB 1730 Foster care; security freeze on credit report.** Requires local departments of social services to request the placement of a security freeze on the credit report or record of any child who has been in foster care for at least six months in order to prevent cases of identity theft and misuse of personal identifying information.

**Passed – HB 2108 Foster care agreements, rights of foster parents, dispute resolution.** Establishes certain rights that shall be afforded to foster parents who enter into an agreement with a local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency for placement and care of a foster child. Sets forth a dispute resolution process through which a foster parent may file complaints regarding alleged violations of the agreement by the local board or agency.

**Passed – HB 2208 Adoption by relative, expands the applicability of procedures.** Expands the applicability of adoption procedures for a child's close relatives to all of the child's adult relatives, including blood relatives whether of the whole or half blood, stepparents, stepbrothers, or stepsisters.

**Passed – HB 1987 Aged or incapacitated adults; financial exploitation, authority to refuse transactions** Authorizes financial institution staff to refuse to execute a transaction, to delay a transaction, or to refuse to disburse funds if the financial institution staff (i) believes in good faith that the transaction or disbursement may involve, facilitate, result in, or contribute to the financial exploitation of an aged or incapacitated adult.

**Other Legislation of Interest** **– Finance and Real Estate**

**Passed – HB2419 Banks; capital stock.** Encourages more formation of new banks in Virginia by removing the bonding requirement on directors at organizing banks during their capital raise and the prohibition on the payment of commissions, fees, brokerage, or other compensation for an initial stock raise.

**Passed – HB2526 Income tax, state; changes definition of resident estate or trust.** Removes the income tax on trusts and estates solely for being administered in Virginia.

**Passed – HB2352 Real Estate Board; real estate licensees.** Clarifies that the Real Estate Board may establish criteria delineating the permitted activities of unlicensed individuals employed by, or affiliated as an independent contractor with, real estate licensees or under the supervision of a broker.

**Passed – HB2218 Va. Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices, unlawful practice of an occupation or profession.** Makes the unlawful and unlicensed practice of contracting, real estate brokering, or real estate sales, in connection with a consumer transaction, unlawful under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

**Passed – HB2225 Financial exploitation of adults; reporting by financial institution staff.** Provides that any financial institution staff who suspects that an adult has been financially exploited may provide supporting information and records to the local department of social services or the adult protective services hotline, in addition to reporting such suspected exploitation to such local department or such hotline provided for under current law.

**Other Legislation of Interest – Tax Reform**

**Passed – HB2529 Income tax conformity.** Conforms Commonwealth's tax code with the federal tax code to December 31, 2018, effective starting in taxable year 2018. The bill establishes income tax subtractions starting in taxable year 2018, for Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI) and for one-fifth of the amount of business interest that is disallowed as a deduction from federal income tax. The bill increases the standard deduction to $4,500 for single individuals and $9,000 for married persons filing jointly for taxable years 2019 through 2025. Provides for a refund, not to exceed a taxpayer's tax liability of up to $110 for individuals and $220 for married persons filing a joint return.

**Other Legislation of Interest – Helping Small Businesses**

**Defeated – HB2631** Minimum wage; local alternative. Establishes a procedure by which a local alternative minimum wage may be imposed in any locality.

**Defeated – HB2122 Virginia Public Procurement Act; public works contracts; prevailing wage; penalty.** Requires contractors and subcontractors under any public contract with a state agency for public works to pay wages, salaries, benefits, and other remuneration at the prevailing wage rate to any mechanic, laborer, or worker employed, retained, or otherwise hired to perform services in connection with the public contract for public works.

**Passed – HB1747 Workers’ compensation; retaliatory discharge of employee.** Prohibits an employer or other person from discharging an employee if the discharge is motivated to any extent by knowledge or belief that the employee has filed a claim or taken or intends to take certain other actions under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act.

**Passed – HB2440 Intangible personal property; classification and exemption of certain business property.**  Classifies as intangible property, and exempts from taxation, personal property that is employed in a trade or business, has original cost of less than $25, and is not classified as machinery and tools, merchants' capital, or short-term rental property.

**Defeated – HB2157 Minimum wage; increases to $10.10 per hour effective January 1, 2020.** Increases the minimum wage from its current federally-mandated level of $7.25 per hour to $10.10 per hour effective Jan. 1, 2020, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

**Defeated – HB1861 Police & court records; expungement of records relating to misdemeanor/nonviolent felony conviction.** Allows a person convicted of a misdemeanor or nonviolent felony to file a petition requesting expungement of the police and court records relating to the conviction.

**Passed – HB2719 Health insurance; small employers.** Revises definition of "small employer" for purposes of group health insurance policies to include an individual who performs any service for remuneration under a contract of hire.

**Passed – HB2443 Group health benefit plans; bona fide associations, etc.** Authorizes a trust constitutes a benefits consortium and is authorized to sell health benefits plans to members of a sponsoring association, which is a nonstock corporation that, among other conditions, has at least five members, has been formed for purposes other than obtaining or providing health benefits, and operates as a nonprofit entity.

**Other Legislation of Interest – Supporting our Veterans**

**Passed – HB1623 Military families; relocation to the Commonwealth; student registration.** Permits any student whose parent has received orders to relocate to a duty station in the Commonwealth to register for courses and other academic programs and participate in the lottery process for charter schools and college partnership laboratory schools in the school division in which such student will reside at the same time and in the same manner as students who reside in the school division.

**Passed – HB1655 Real property tax exemption for disabled veterans; surviving spouse's ability to change residence.** Enacts an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia which applies the real property tax exemption for surviving spouse of a disabled veteran to such spouse's principal place of residence if the spouse moves to a different residence.

**Passed – HB1832 Special license plate; Navy and Marine Corps Medal.** Creates a special license plate for persons awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal**.**

**Passed – HB2551 Commercial driver's licenses; military service members.** Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to waive certain knowledge and skills tests required for obtaining a commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license or a commercial driver's license endorsement for certain current or former military service members, as authorized by federal law.

**Passed – HB2129 Nursing, Board of; application for license or certification by military spouse, expedited review.** Provides that the Board of Nursing shall process applications and, if an applicant meets the criteria for licensure or certification, issue such license or certification within 30 days in cases in which an applicant for licensure or certification is licensed or certified in another state and is relocated to the Commonwealth

**Other Legislation of Interest – Protecting 2nd Amendment Rights**

Democrats introduced numerous bills seeking to impose new restrictions, which were defeated on party line votes by Republicans.

**Defeated – HB1654 Prohibited public carrying of certain firearms in public areas; penalty.** Prohibits the carrying of a loaded shotgun or rifle in places open to the public in certain cities and counties. Current law prohibits the carrying in such locations of certain loaded firearms with high capacity magazines, silencers, or folding stock, or a loaded shotgun with a magazine that will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which it is chambered.

**Defeated – HB1856 Firearms; libraries owned or operated by localities.** Allows a locality to adopt an ordinance that prohibits firearms, ammunition, or components or a combination thereof in libraries owned or operated by the locality.

**Defeated – HB1992 Localities; regulation of firearms in government buildings.** Allows localities and authorized agents of such localities to regulate the possession of firearms ammunition, or components or combination thereof in, or the carrying of such items into, any building owned or used by such locality for governmental purposes.

**Defeated – HB1644 Firearms; reporting when lost or stolen, civil penalty.** Requires a person who lawfully possesses a firearm to report the loss or theft of the firearm to any local law-enforcement agency or the Department of State Police within 24 hours after such person discovers the loss or theft or is informed by a person with personal knowledge of the loss or theft.

**Defeated – HB1691 Manufacture, import, sale, transfer, or possession of undetectable firearms; penalty** Creates a Class 5 felony for any person who manufactures, imports, sells, transfers, or possesses any firearm that after removal of all parts other than a major component, defined in the bill, is not detectable as a firearm by the types of detection devices, including X-ray machines, commonly used at airports for security screening.

**Defeated – HB1763 Firearms; removal from persons posing substantial risk of injury to himself, etc., penalties.** Creates a procedure by which any attorney for the Commonwealth or any law-enforcement officer may apply to a general district court, circuit court, or juvenile and domestic relations district court judge or magistrate for an emergency substantial risk order to prohibit a person who poses a substantial risk of injury to himself or others from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm.

**Defeated – HB1899 Concealed handgun permits; demonstration of competence.** Removes the option for concealed handgun permit applicants to demonstrate competence with a handgun by completing an electronic, video, or online course conducted by a state-certified or National Rifle Association-certified firearms instructor. The bill does not affect any in-person means of satisfying the requirement to demonstrate competence with a handgun under current law.

**Defeated – HB1956 Firearms, etc.; permitted events.** Authorizes any locality by ordinance to prohibit the possession or carrying of firearms, ammunition, or components or any combination thereof in a public space during a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

**Defeated – HB2479 Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks, penalty.** Requires a background check for any firearm transfer and directs the Department of State Police (the Department) to establish a process for transferors to obtain such a check from licensed firearms dealers.

**Defeated – HB2492 Firearms magazines and firearms, certain; penalties, prohibition of sale, transfer, etc.** Prohibits any person from importing, selling, bartering, or transferring a firearms magazine designed to hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

**Other Legislation of Interest –** **Education and School Safety**

**Passed – HB1729 Guidance counselors; changes name to school counselors, staff time.** School counselors; requires each school counselor employed by a school board in a public elementary or secondary school to spend at least 80 percent of his staff time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of individual students or groups of students.

**Passed – HB2018 Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide; Bd of Education shall review and revise.** Board of Education; Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide. Requires the Board of Education to review and revise Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide to expand the opportunities available for students to earn credit for graduation through high-quality work-based learning experiences such as job shadowing, mentorships, internships, and externships.

**Passed – HB1734 Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety; threat assessment, case management tool.** Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety; threat assessment; case management tool. Requires the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety to develop a case management tool for use by public elementary and secondary school threat assessment teams and requires such threat assessment teams to use such tool to collect and report to the Center quantitative data on its activities.

**Passed – HB1920 New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Fund and Program; grant priority.** Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in awarding grants pursuant to the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program, to give priority to institutions that offer noncredit workforce training programs in high-demand fields in which employer demand is currently unmet by the available workforce.

**Passed – HB1611 Virginia College Savings Plan; prepaid tuition contracts; pricing reserves**. Lowers the reserveratio of the assets of the Virginia College Savings Plan (the Plan) to lower the cost of College Savings Plans.

**Passed – SB1718 Department of Education; reading diagnostic tools; report.**  Directs the Department of Education (the Department) to consult with stakeholders and develop a plan to implement a pilot program to incorporate additional diagnostic tools into reading diagnostic tests used for screening students in kindergarten through grade three. The bill directs the Department to submit such plan to the General Assembly by December 1, 2019.

Senator Black of Loudoun County introduced this legislation, and I worked closely with our Hamilton constituent, Lorraine Hightower of Decoding Dyslexia Virginia (DDVA), to navigate the legislative process, and get it passed. It provides for a parent to participate as a stakeholder in the decision-making process about a statewide literacy screener.

**Other Legislation of Interest – Protecting Unborn Babies**

**Defeated – HB 2491 Abortion; eliminate certain requirements. (Tran-D-42)** Eliminates the requirement that an abortion in the second trimester of pregnancy and prior to the third trimester be performed in a hospital. The bill eliminates all the procedures and processes, including the performance of an ultrasound. The bill eliminates the requirement that two other physicians certify that a third trimester abortion is necessary to prevent the woman's death or impairment of her mental or physical health, as well as the need to find that any such impairment to the woman's health would be substantial and irremediable.

**Defeated – HB 1863 Abortion; informed written consent. (Rodman-D-73)** Repeals the statutory requirements that a physician obtain a pregnant woman's informed written consent and perform fetal transabdominal ultrasound imaging before performing an abortion.

**Other Legislation of Interest – Health Care**

**Passed – HB2538 Balance billing; emergency and elective services.** Requires a facility where a covered person receives scheduled elective services to post the required notice or inform the covered person of the required notice at the time of pre-admission or pre-registration and the names of all provider groups providing health care services at the facility.

**Passed – HB2126 Accident and sickness insurance; step therapy protocols.** Requires carriers issuing health benefit plans to utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols.

**Passed – HB1998 HIV or hepatitis B or C viruses; exposure to bodily fluids, infection, expedited testing.** Requires a general district court to hold a hearing within 48 hours of a petition being filed seeking to compel collection of a blood specimen for testing for human immunodeficiency virus or the hepatitis B or C viruses when exposure to bodily fluids occurs between a person and any health care provider, person employed by or under the direction and control of a health care provider, law-enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services personnel, person employed by a public safety agency, or school board employee and the person whose blood specimen is sought refuses to consent.

**VETOED by Governor – HB2260 Health insurance; catastrophic health plans.** Authorizes health carriers to offer catastrophic plans on the individual market and to offer such plans to all individuals.

**Passed – HB2318 Naloxone; possession and administration by school nurses and local health department employees** Adds school nurses, local health department employees that are assigned to a public school pursuant to an agreement between the local health department and school board, and other school board employees or individuals contracted by a school board to provide school health services, to the list of individuals who may possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonist.

**Passed – HB2639 Health care shared savings; incentive programs.** Requires health carriers to establish a comparable health care service incentive program under which savings are shared with a covered person who elects to receive a covered health care service from a lower-cost provider.

**Passed – HB1971 Health professions and facilities; adverse action in another jurisdiction.** Provides that the mandatory suspension of a license, certificate, or registration of a health professional by the Director of the Department of Health Professions is not required when the license, certificate, or registration of a health professional is revoked, suspended, or surrendered in another jurisdiction based on disciplinary action or mandatory suspension in the Commonwealth.

**Passed – HB1639 Medical Assistance Services, Department of; payment for certain services to hospice patients.** Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to implement a process for direct payment of nursing facility or ICF/MR services for hospice patients receiving services in a nursing facility or ICF/MR if such patient would be eligible for medical assistance for nursing facility or ICF/MR services had he not elected to receive hospice care. The bill provides that payments made to a nursing facility or ICF/MR shall be the full amount that would be paid to the nursing facility or ICF/MR if the individual was not receiving hospice services and shall not reflect any discount to such rates.

**Passed – HB1815 Assisted living facilities; emergency electrical power source, disclosure to prospective residents.** Requires each licensed assisted living facility with six or more residents to disclose to each prospective resident, or his legal representative, in writing in a document provided to the prospective resident or his legal representative and as evidenced by the written acknowledgement of the resident or his legal representative, whether the facility has an on-site emergency electrical power source for the provision of electricity during an interruption of the electric supply.

**Passed – HB1915 Cancer patients; expedited review of adverse coverage determinations.** Provides that a covered person shall not be required to have exhausted his health carrier's internal appeal process before seeking an external review of an adverse determination regarding coverage of treatment if the treatment is to treat his cancer.

**Passed – HB1640 Health carriers; services provided by nurse practitioners.** Health carriers; nurse practitioners. Requires health insurers and health services plan providers whose policies or contracts cover services that may be legally performed by licensed nurse practitioners (LNPs) to provide equal coverage for such services when rendered by an LNP.

**Passed – HB1970 Telemedicine services; payment and coverage of services.** Requires insurers, corporations, or health maintenance organizations to cover medically necessary remote patient monitoring services as part of their coverage of telemedicine services to the full extent that these services are available.