



2019 General Assembly Priorities

The VICPP Board will vote on these priorities at the December board meeting.

Welcoming All: The U.S. is not a very welcoming place for immigrants and minority faith traditions right now. VICPP opposes anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric and policies and advocates policies in Virginia that can make the Commonwealth more welcoming. In the 2019 General Assembly, VICPP will support two important policies sought by immigrant communities:

- **Driver's Privilege Cards.** In Virginia, people who are undocumented or fall into 12 categories of lawful presence are denied access to driver's licenses. One of the primary ways that people end up in deportation proceedings is through traffic stops. Creating a Driver's Privilege Card would be good for immigrants and good for all drivers on the roads. Many other states have such policies.
- **In-state tuition for DACA students.** Currently, DACA holders have access to in-state tuition, but if the DACA students were to lose their DACA status due to capricious federal policy shifts, these students would lose in-state tuition. We want these students to continue their education and help Virginia prosper.

Wage Theft: Virginia needs to strengthen its laws against wage theft by reforming the Virginia Minimum Wage Act and the Payment of Wages Act. In 2109, VICPP will support reforms to:

- **Remove some of the "Jim Crow" language in the law.** Virginia's wage laws exempt most categories of workers that were historically held by African Americans.
- **Remove the exemption on piece work.** Currently, if workers are paid "by the piece," they are exempt from the law. Only one other state still has this exemption.
- **Cover all workers.** Currently, the Virginia Minimum Wage Act only covers businesses with four or more persons employed at any one time. Most states cover all workers.
- **Provide paystub information to workers.** Many workers are cheated of wages because they are not given a paystub or online accounting that shows how they are paid.
- **Offer protection against retaliation.** VA workers can be fired for filing a wage complaint.
- **Give DOLI the ability to investigate.** DOLI can only investigate for an individual complainant, not for all workers who may be victims of wage theft in a business.
- **Create a private cause of action.** Workers should be able to take their claims to court. The VA Consumer Protection Act provides for a similar cause of action. If consumers have this right, so too should workers.

Earned Income Credit:

Governor Northam has proposed making the Virginia Earned Income Credit refundable. VICPP will support this.

Criminal Justice Reform: VICPP will support reforms making the criminal justice system more humane and fair.

Environmental Justice: VICPP is in conversation with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light about merging. If a merger occurs, VICPP will work on at least one environmental justice issue.