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# Priorities

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## 2020 General Assembly Legislative Agenda

### Economic Justice

Supporting workers and strengthening laws against wage theft are among VICPP's top priorities. We advocate:

- **A law requiring employers to provide five paid sick days** for full-time workers in Virginia (pro-rated for part-time). 1.2 million Virginians do not have access to paid time off when they're sick. This is a critical public health issue. The law is good for children, families, and businesses and it will decrease health care costs.
- **Creating a "Private Cause of Action"** on wage theft cases. When workers are not paid wages owed, they have little recourse. This would allow attorneys to get reasonable fees for representing workers.
- **Funding & Empowering DOLI** (re: investigating wage theft claims). DOLI has gone from 20 wage theft investigators to 3 since 2009. Workers need DOLI to protect against lost wages & unscrupulous employers.
- **Removing Minimum Wage Exemptions.** Workers deserve at least Minimum Wage.
- **Payday Lending Reform.** Let's follow the examples of Ohio & Colorado and better regulate this industry.
- **Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15!** Wages have not been raised in over a decade, it's long overdue.

### Environmental Justice

With our merger this year with Virginia Interfaith Power & Light, VICPP is focused on environmental justice issues impacting Virginia's most vulnerable communities. We support legislation including:

- **Incorporating Environmental Justice into State Agencies.** Requiring state agencies to consider the environmental justice impact of projects and programs and codify the Environmental Justice Council.
- **Lower the Energy Burden on Virginians,** so that folks don't spend more than 6% of their income on electricity bills. Invest funds from RGGI, **the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative,** in energy efficiency and support other innovative ways to lower electricity bills for low-income communities.

### Health Equity

We support efforts led by the Health Care for All Virginians (HAV) Coalition, including health insurance protection, maternal mortality solutions, adding dental insurance to Medicaid, closing the 40 quarter Medicaid Gap, and more.

### Welcoming All

VICPP opposes discriminatory rhetoric and policies aimed at immigrants, religious minorities, and others. We advocate more welcoming legislation. In 2020, VICPP will support policies sought by immigrant communities:

- **Driver's Licenses for all Virginia residents.** Providing access to driving privileges is good for all Virginians.
- **In-state tuition for all Virginia residents.** This law would allow undocumented immigrant students who meet Virginia's residency requirements to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities.
- **Prenatal Coverage for All** via Medicaid. Providing undocumented women 9 months of prenatal coverage.