

SaraRose Martin Journalist

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QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

- Reporting, writing, editing, social media and designing using InDesign,
- Leadership and management

WORK EXPERIENCE

Commonwealth Times, Richmond, VA - Staff Writer

- Reporting for Virginia Commonwealth University's independent press September 2016 - present

Barrel Oak Winery, Delaplane, VA - Pantry Runner, Cashier

October 2013 - present

- Stocking, cleaning, waiting, working events, customer service

EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 3.9 GPA

August 2015 - present

- Mass Communications major studying print/online journalism

Fauquier High School, Warrenton, VA 4.1 GPA

August 2011 - May 2015

- Active member of school newspaper, *The Falconer*
 - Features/Arts Director August 2012 - May 2015
 - Editor-in-chief August 2013 - May 2014
- Duties included assigning, reporting, writing, editing, layout, and design. August 2014 - May 2015

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- I have worked with the Student Press Law Center's Active Voice advocacy project, aimed at empowering women in student media.
- After being censored in my high school paper, *Fauquier Now*, a local online publication sought and published my in-depth [article](#) about the use and manufacture of dabs, a highly concentrated form of marijuana. *The Washington Post* wrote an [article](#) on my censorship and my fight to get it overturned, as well as the [the Student Press Law Center](#).
- While editor-in-chief our school paper *The Falconer* won [Virginia High School League Trophy class](#). I received third place for my editorial on the publications policy and an honorable mention for my news article on the tardy policy.
- I interned for the Excellence in Journalism News team at the Excellence in Journalism conference. There I received The Society of Professional Journalist's Robert D.G Lewis First Amendment Award.

REFERENCES

Frank LoMonte, Student Press Law Center Executive Director

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House votes to defund Planned Parenthood

By Sararose Martin | AP February 7

RICHMOND, Va. — The House of Delegates voted Tuesday to defund Planned Parenthood despite protests by women’s rights advocates on the Capitol grounds and in the House chamber.

On a 60-33 party-line vote, the House approved HB 2264, which would cut off federal Title X funding for Planned Parenthood and any other groups that perform abortions in Virginia. Without the funding, the organization says it would have to shut its five clinics in the state.

About a dozen protesters lined the sidewalk at Capitol Square on Tuesday morning as legislators walked from the General Assembly Building to the state Capitol. They held signs declaring “I Stand with Planned Parenthood” and “Stop the War on Virginia Women.”

Later, wearing T-shirts that spelled out “We are watching,” the demonstrators sat in the first row of the gallery overlooking the House floor to urge delegates to vote against the bill. The protesters represented such groups as Progress Virginia, NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia, the Virginia Latina Advocacy Network, the Virginia Civic Engagement Table and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia.

Planned Parenthood’s clinics in Richmond, Hampton, Virginia Beach, Charlottesville and Roanoke mostly provide cancer screenings, family planning services, contraceptive counseling, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, according to the organization. Nationally, abortions makes up about 3 percent of the group’s services.

In Virginia, Planned Parenthood clinics provide contraceptive care to thousands of low-income women each year, according to Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia. She said most Virginians agree that a woman who has decided to terminate a pregnancy should have access to safe and affordable abortion services.

“The activism we saw today at the state Capitol is a clear sign that women care deeply about threats to their reproductive freedom,” said Tarina Keene, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia. “In voting to defund Planned Parenthood, legislators are subverting the will of the people and endangering health and the lives of thousands of Virginia women for purely ideological and political reasons. It’s shameful.”

Del. Ben Cline, R-Amherst, sponsored the legislation, which Republicans overwhelmingly supported and Democrats vigorously opposed.

Cline said his bill would direct the Title X money Virginia receives to more than 140 federally qualified and rural health clinics in Virginia. The legislation “ensures that hospitals, federally qualified health clinics and rural health clinics are funded prior to abortion centers,” he said.

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Cline introduced an identical bill in the 2016 legislative session. It passed both the House and the Senate but was vetoed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe. An attempt to override the veto in the House fell one vote short.

The bill states that the Virginia Department of Health “shall not enter into a contract with, or make a grant to, any entity that performs abortions that are not federally qualified abortions or maintains or operates a facility where non-federally qualified abortions are performed.”

That means the state would cut off funds for organizations that offer abortions that are not eligible for matching funds under Medicaid. This would include any abortion outside of cases of rape, incest or “gross fetal anomalies.” The bill would not apply to licensed hospitals.

The legislation is part of a nationwide effort by Republicans to defund Planned Parenthood. They have pushed for similar measures in other state capitals and in Congress.

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Don't pass 'divisive' proposals, McAuliffe warns

SaraRose Martin and Jim Thomma, Capital News Service

Published: January 12, 2017, 6:56 am | Updated: January 12, 2017, 7:09 am



(AP Photo/Steve Helber, File)

RICHMOND – In his final State of the Commonwealth address Wednesday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe warned legislators not to pass bills such as ones banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy or restricting which bathroom transgender individuals can use.

“I want to make it very clear that I will veto any legislation that discriminates against LGBT Virginians or undermines the constitutional health care rights of Virginia women,” McAuliffe told a joint meeting of the General Assembly on the opening day of its 2017 session.

McAuliffe, a Democrat who is entering the last year of his four-year term, discussed strides toward economic development and announced that the Navy Federal Credit Union has agreed to locate 1,400 new jobs and invest \$102 million in Frederick County.

“We took every meeting we could get and convinced job creators to bring new operations to our commonwealth, or to buy the world-class goods, agricultural products and services our businesses create,” McAuliffe said.

He linked those achievements to social policies.

“As we begin our work together this session, our neighbor North Carolina remains mired in a divisive and counterproductive battle over laws its legislature passed that target the rights of LGBT citizens,” McAuliffe said. “As we have seen in that state and others, attacks on equality and women’s health care rights don’t just embarrass the states that engage in them – they kill jobs.

Another focus of the address was education. McAuliffe said Virginia invested more than \$1 billion in public education last year, the most in the state’s history. He said his administration is transforming the K-12 system to prepare students for the jobs of the 21st century.

Last year, Virginia saw 149,000 jobs open in the technology sector and 36,000 jobs in cyber security, McAuliffe said. He said Virginia has created 167,100 net new jobs over the past three years.

In his speech, the governor also addressed transportation, care for veterans, climate change, the opioid epidemic and reformation of the juvenile justice system.

The budget that McAuliffe has submitted to the General Assembly includes funding to provide same-day service to Virginians who suffer from a behavioral health crisis; a \$5.3 million increase for substance abuse disorder services; and new tools to prevent overdose deaths. In addition, McAuliffe has proposed legislation and funding to expand mental health screenings in jail.

“One of the most severe challenges facing our commonwealth today is how we care for our fellow Virginians who suffer from behavioral health disorders,” McAuliffe said. “As too many recent tragic events have taught us, our current system is too fragmented and underfunded.”

Del. Ronald A. Villanueva of Virginia Beach and state Sen. Siobhan S. Dunnivant of Henrico County delivered the Republican response to the governor’s address.

Villanueva emphasized the positive effects that the election of Donald Trump as president might have on Virginia, from increased defense spending to the enactment of policies to help the coal industry.

Dunnavant called McAuliffe's decision not to include federal funding for Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act in his budget a "positive acknowledgment of the changes coming to Washington."

Villanueva said Republicans would attempt to rise above "partisan squabbles" in the last legislative session before the 2017 gubernatorial election.

"The common-sense priorities we have set for this session are conservative, but they are also intended to garner widespread support from both parties," Villanueva said.

Those priorities include some of the same issues McAuliffe pinpointed in his address – namely the heroin addiction crisis, funding for public schools, and economic development and incentive programs.

But Dunnavant and Villanueva also touched on issues like expanding school choice, eliminating fraudulent welfare spending, and reducing governmental regulation across the board.

"We will ensure our public safety professionals have the resources they need and address compensation deficiencies for our State Police and Sheriff's Deputies," Dunnavant said.

She reiterated a commitment to balance the budget without raising taxes. Lawmakers are facing a \$1.5 billion revenue shortfall.

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Environmentally-minded firms might get tax breaks

 www.fauquiernow.com/index.php/fauquier_news/article/fauquier-environmentally-minded-firms-might-get-tax-breaks-2017

February 9, 2017

The bill would authorize local governing bodies to create by ordinance one or more green development zones, inside which localities would be permitted to grant tax incentives and provide certain regulatory flexibility to attract green businesses.

— Del. Michael Webert, R-18th/Marshall

By SaraRose Martin

Capital News Service

RICHMOND – Virginia businesses that operate in energy-efficient buildings or make products that benefit the environment could receive tax incentives under a bill headed toward approval in the General Assembly.

The House has already passed [HB 1565](#), and the Senate Finance Committee unanimously endorsed the measure Tuesday.

The bill's sponsor, Del. Michael Webert, R-18th/Marshall, said it was requested by economic development officials in his district to attract green businesses.

“The bill would authorize local governing bodies to create by ordinance one or more green development zones, inside which localities would be permitted to grant tax incentives and provide certain regulatory flexibility to attract green businesses,” Mr. Webert said.

A “green development business” would be defined as a business “engaged primarily in the design, development or production of materials, components or equipment used to reduce negative impact on the environment.”

As incentives, local governments could offer such businesses a reduction in permit fees, user fees and gross receipts taxes.

In addition, localities would be authorized to provide regulatory flexibility within a green development zone. That could mean special zoning, faster permit processing and exemption from certain ordinances. Localities could offer these incentives for up to 10 years.

The bill would expand on Virginia's existing Enterprise Zone Grant Program. That program allows localities to apply for grants from the Department of Housing and Community Development for an enterprise zone designation that also offers tax and regulatory incentives.

Mr. Webert's bill would apply the same ideas to green development zones. Under the program, as the value of real estate, machinery and tools within a zone increases, a percentage of the rising tax revenues would be used for grants aimed at attracting businesses or enhancing governmental services within the zone.

The legislation is part of a “green agenda” that Republican legislators touted at a news conference last week.

“The word ‘conservation’ and the word ‘conservative’ comes from the same piece of Latin,” said Del. J. Randall



Minchew, R-Loudoun. "No conservative should ever be disappointed to call themselves a conservationist."

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Fauquier Teacher Gives Daughters a Civics Lesson
Jan 23, 2017



By SaraRose Martin
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON – Mert Cook teaches students at Coleman Elementary School in the town of Marshall in northwestern Fauquier County. But on this rainy Saturday morning, she had a lesson for her own children. She had organized a carpool to Washington, D.C., and brought along two of her daughters. They were about to learn about democratic protesting.

"I felt it was really important to show the power of women together," Cook said. "Setting the example for my

girls that our voice matters is incredibly important. We can't just talk – we have to walk!”

Cook was among a contingent of Northern Virginia educators who joined other citizens from across the state and across the country for the Women’s March on Washington. Many of the participants came to protest incoming President Donald Trump.

“I had a student share with me with tears falling how scared she was for Trump because her family is illegal,” Cook said. “I assured her not to worry. I truly believed people were better than to allow this to happen. I was crushed when it did.”

Co-worker and teacher Mirae Daly joined Cook because she is concerned about the effect she believes Trump’s presidency may have on young people.

“My biggest concern is for young people, who stand to have your lives affected more so than mine,” Daly said. “My hope is that future generations can live in a world that has clean air to breathe, appreciation of differences and equality under law.”

The march originally obtained a permit for 200,000 attendees, but the turnout in D.C. exceeded that, and there were rallies and marches in cities around the country as well. Minority groups, people of color, the LGBTQ community and men and women of every variety chanted and held signs denouncing what they believe to be lewd, sexist or offensive comments and beliefs of Trump.

Barbara Dollison is a substitute teacher in Northern Virginia, and her daughter worked for the Hillary Clinton campaign. Her daughter explained to Dollison that the march was both a way to stand up for women’s rights and a statement to the Trump presidency that attempts to undermine women’s rights will be opposed.

“We spend a lot of time teaching about respecting others. Then the children are exposed to an adult leader who models bad behavior such as bullying and extreme disrespect,” Dollison said. “That’s going to take a lot of explaining.”

Cook said the march renewed her faith in the ability of people to work together.

“I truly believe kindness matters. We will make a difference together,” Cook said. “And we have to keep all children safe. I really wanted to get as many people together – to make the difference together.”

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McAuliffe vetoes legislation to defund Planned Parenthood

VC vagazette.com/news/va-vg-cns-planned-parenthool-veto-0222-20170222-story.html

SaraRose Martin

2/22/2017

RICHMOND – Gov. [Terry McAuliffe](#) vetoed legislation Tuesday that sought to remove state and federal funding for women's health providers such as [Planned Parenthood](#) and any other groups that perform abortions in Virginia.

In this veto statement, McAuliffe said the bill, HB 2264, "would harm tens of thousands of Virginians who rely on the health care services and programs provided by Planned Parenthood health centers, by denying them access to affordable care."

Planned Parenthood held a veto ceremony on the steps of the Governor's Mansion. According to the organization, more than 22,000 people in Richmond, Hampton, Virginia Beach, Charlottesville, and Roanoke rely on Planned Parenthood for health care, including cancer screenings, birth control, testing for and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, well-woman exams and legal abortions.

"We are proud to have a governor in Virginia who stands with the women of our commonwealth," said Paulette McElwain, president and CEO of the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood. She said McAuliffe "understands how vitally important access to comprehensive reproductive health care provided by Planned Parenthood is for women."

Pro-life activists lined the steps of the Governor's Mansion bearing signs reading "All Lives Matter" and "Say No to Planned Parenthood." In a press release, the Family Foundation of Virginia rejected the assertion that women would no longer have access to health care if the bill had been enacted.

"Nothing in Virginia right now is more predictable than Terry McAuliffe doing all that he can to ensure that taxpayers are forced to prop up the abortion industry," said Victoria Cobb, president of the Family Foundation. "If there's one issue on which Gov. McAuliffe has been ideologically rigid, it is his unwavering support and protection of the same \$1 billion abortion industry that contributed nearly \$2 million to his election."

Del. Ben Cline, R-Amherst, sponsored HB 2264. He introduced identical legislation in the [General Assembly's](#) 2016 session. Last year's bill passed both the House and the [Senate](#) but was vetoed by McAuliffe. The House fell one vote short of overriding the governor's veto.

HB 2264 passed the House 60-33 on Feb. 7 and the Senate 20-19 on Feb. 14.

For women's rights advocates, McAuliffe's veto comes as a relief. Republicans would have to muster a two-thirds majority in each chamber – 67 votes in the House and 27 in the Senate – to override the veto.

"Defunding Planned Parenthood is a blatant attempt to deny women access to the full range of reproductive health care services, and Virginia women won't stand for it," said Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia, a liberal advocacy group.

"Politicians in Richmond don't get to decide where women get their health care and what kind of services they receive, and we're glad that Gov. McAuliffe agrees."

Virginia legislators seek to curb distracted driving

By SARAROSE MARTIN - *Associated Press* - Tuesday, January 24, 2017

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - A coalition of Democrats and Republicans called Tuesday for new laws to discourage Virginia motorists from using their cellphones while driving.

The legislators unveiled several bills targeting “distracted driving,” which they said caused thousands of traffic accidents and killed 175 people in the state last year.

HB 1834, sponsored by Del. Rich Anderson, R-Woodbridge, would make it illegal for drivers to “manually select multiple icons or enter multiple letters or text” in a handheld device - meaning they couldn’t check Facebook, send a tweet or view a video on YouTube. Current state law prohibits drivers only from sending emails or text messages.

Anderson’s bill also would create a new offense called distracted driving in the Code of Virginia.

“In partnership with law enforcement, we can make this happen, and that’s what this collective effort is all about,” Anderson said. “This is a bicameral, bipartisan effort.”

Existing law against texting while driving applies only when the vehicle is moving. Anderson’s bill would extend the ban to when the vehicle is stopped on the roadway. It would not apply when the vehicle is legally parked.

Anderson’s bill would not affect people using a GPS navigation system or accessing a name or number stored on their cellphone to make a call.

“The real reason we’ve got to do this is simply because, based on reports from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of 2016, 175 Virginians died on our highways as a result of distracted driving,” Anderson said. “On top of that, 14,700 Virginians were injured.”

Del. Ron Villanueva, R-Virginia Beach, and Del. Tag Greason, R-Potomac Falls, have introduced legislation to educate young people about the dangers of distracted driving.

Under Villanueva’s proposal, HB 2015, people who use the E-ZPass electronic toll collection system could make a voluntary contribution to the DRIVE SMART Virginia Education Fund. The fund sponsors training and activities to promote roadway safety.

Greason’s bill, HB 1763, would authorize the issuance of special license plates for supporters of highway safety, including awareness of distracted driving. For each plate sold, \$10 would be used to promote safe driving.

Greason suggested that the plates be designed by high school students.

“High school students said something interesting to me: ‘You might pass a new law, you might create a new impaired-driving statute, you might increase the penalties, but that’s really not going to make an effect,’” Greason said.

“Somehow, you have to get us engaged in the process.”

Sen. Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, introduced legislation that would deal with injuries caused by distracted driving. SB 1339 says a person who operates a motor vehicle in a careless or distracted manner and causes serious injury to a pedestrian or bicyclist would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The driver’s license would be suspended.

As a lawyer, Surovell said he dealt with this kind of personal injury first hand. He recalled representing a family whose son was killed by a distracted driver.

“That collision opened my eyes to how dangerous texting while driving can be,” Surovell said. “The individual in that case was never convicted of anything.”

A study by Virginia Tech found that 80 percent of all crashes are from driver inattention three seconds before the accident, according to Janet Brooking, executive director of DRIVE SMART. She said texting while driving makes a person 2,300 times more likely to be in a crash.

Dana Schrade, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, said the legislation would help clarify, educate and enforce safe driving.

“What we are talking about is something that has become an accepted practice, and that’s that we can multitask. When you get behind the wheel, driving is a full-time job,” Schrade said.

“The more we make a clear message through our legislation with the help of these legislators, the more we put forth a clear message about how this is a No. 1 danger in driving today.”

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Gov. McAuliffe expected to sign marijuana reforms

 wtvr.com/2017/03/13/gov-mcauliffe-expected-to-sign-marijuana-reforms/

Capital News Service

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia probably will ease up a bit in its laws against marijuana by making it easier for epilepsy patients to obtain cannabis extract oils and by relaxing the penalty for people caught with small amounts of marijuana.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe is expected to sign the handful of marijuana-related bills passed by the General Assembly during its recent session. They include SB 1027, which will allow Virginia pharmacies to make and sell marijuana extract oils for treating intractable epilepsy, and HB 2051 and SB 1091, which will eliminate the state's punishment of automatically suspending the driver's license of adults convicted of simple marijuana possession.

Currently, it is illegal in Virginia to purchase THC-A or CBD oils. In 2015, the General Assembly carved out one exception – for people who suffer from intractable epilepsy. Epilepsy patients and their caregivers are allowed to possess the marijuana extract oils. But they face problems buying the medication.

SB 1027, sponsored by Sen. David Marsden, D-Fairfax, will allow “pharmaceutical processors” – after obtaining a permit from the state Board of Pharmacy and under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist – to grow low-THC cannabis, manufacture the oil and then provide it to epilepsy patients who have a written certification from a doctor.

“Virginia will only be the second state in the nation that has this type of program, the first being Missouri,” said Maggie Ellinger-Locke, legislative counsel for the Marijuana Policy Project, which advocates liberalizing marijuana laws.

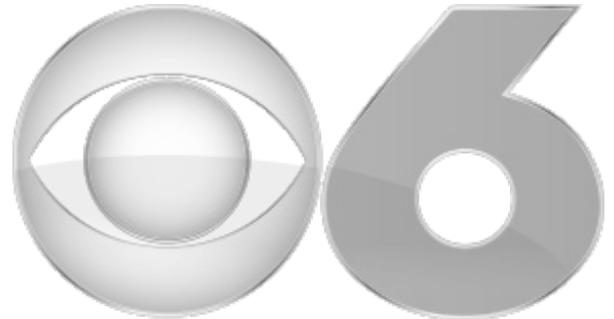
“It's a far cry from an effective medical marijuana program, but it's still a step in the right direction.”

Ellinger-Locke said 28 states and the District of Columbia have full-fledged programs in which people with cancer, glaucoma and other diseases can get a prescription to use marijuana.

Marsden's bill includes an emergency clause. So when the governor signs it, the law will take effect immediately.

Del. Les. Adams, R-Chatham, and Sen. Adam Ebbin, D-Alexandria, carried the measures regarding driver's licenses. Under the legislation, which would take effect July 1, judges will have the discretion to suspend the license of an adult convicted of marijuana possession – but the penalty would not be automatic. Juveniles would still be subject to an automatic six-month suspension of their driver's license.

Ellinger-Locke said the laws are in step with reforms happening across the country.



“We are optimistic,” she said. “The polling shows that Virginians desperately want their marijuana policy changed and laws reformed in some capacity, and I think that lawmakers are starting to hear the call in Virginia as well as throughout the U.S.”

Those calls went largely unheeded during the 2017 legislative session, as about a dozen proposals, ranging from establishing a medical marijuana program to decriminalizing marijuana possession, failed.

For example, Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel of Winchester introduced bills to make marijuana products available to people with cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis and several other diseases (SB 1298) and to create a pilot program for farmers to grow hemp (SB 1306). Both bills cleared the Senate but died in the House.

Marijuana likely will be an issue in statewide elections this year. Vogel, who is seeking the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, has vowed to be an advocate for medical marijuana.

“It has no psychotropic effects, and no one is dealing it on the illicit market. For the people that are sick and really wanted the bill to pass, it was heartbreaking,” Vogel said. “I think this is a little bit of bias and a little bit of lack of education ... The overwhelming majority of the voting public believes having access to that kind of medication is very helpful.”

Medical marijuana bills faced opposition from legislators afraid that expansion may become a slippery slope. Sen. Dick Black, R-Loudoun, recalled returning from serving in the Marines in Vietnam in the 1960s when, he said, marijuana use caused a collapse of “good order and discipline.”

By SaraRose Martin with Capital News Service

Capital News Service is a flagship program of VCU’s Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students participating in the program provide state government coverage for Virginia’s community newspapers and other media outlets, under the supervision of Associate Professor Jeff South.