

October 2021 – Questions for Virginia Candidates for Governor

Almost half the U.S. workforce earns “low wages,” according to the Brookings Institute. We’re interested in what the candidates would do for the working poor.

- 1) **Paid sick days.** In a TV ad, Terry McAuliffe says he would provide paid sick leave. Would this include all workers? How would this policy deal with tipped workers who make \$2.13 an hour? Youngkin position of this issue?
- 2) **Medicaid.** Gov. Northam and the D legislature got the Medicaid expansion done after years of R opposition. Do you support continuing it? Would you try to roll back? Plans for Medicaid? Expand access to Medicaid Home and Community-based Services?
- 3) **Minimum Wage.** What to do? Raise it more? Would you support adjusting the minimum wage for regional differences in labor costs as NY and other states have done?
- 4) **Mental Health.** Your view on spending to support community mental health services and psychiatric hospitals. More? Less? Same? Add enforcement power to state Creigh Deeds law requiring acute-care hospitals to take their fair share of emergency psychiatric cases? (Background: They are now reportedly dumping patients into overloaded state psych hospitals and do not have enough beds available.)
- 5) **Childcare.** Do you support subsidized childcare? More? If so, should it be targeted to low-wage families? Available to families making >\$100?
- 6) **Tele-health.** Would you support breaking down barriers to tele-health services? Allowing out-of-state providers to provide services in VA? Expanding Zoom family visiting access in state hospitals and other facilities? (Background. Virginia is first state to establish policy of Zoom visits in psych hospitals.)
- 7) **What else?** Would you add any Qs, issues that impact low-wage families?

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