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Page 2: Contact Information

Q1

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Page 3: Question 1: Early Learning

Q2

Virginia is known to have a 'non-system' of early learning where programs operate under different departments and sets of rules. What would you do to better link programs and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Virginia's early learning programs?

Look to The Department of Education each group for advice.

Page 4: Question 2: Foster Care

Q3

Most children entering foster care are returned to their families. In most cases, these families do not receive additional support and services from the child welfare system, which can lead to poor health and education outcomes for children. How do you think the Commonwealth can better support children once they are returned to their families?

Medicare expansion. A program that would be available to children without computers in their homes or other needed products could come in and use the school library after regular school hours or for a time on Saturday. Encourage a computer donation program and a volunteer program to fix these computers up for distribution to those children in need.

Page 5: Question 3: School to Prison Pipeline

Q4

The US Department of Education data analyzed by the Center for Public Integrity shows that Virginia schools, in a single year, referred students to law enforcement agencies at three times the national rate. Numerous studies show that these school discipline policies increase the chances of these students becoming involved with the adult criminal justice system. If elected, how would you address these issues?

Ask for guidance from the people who have studied this, review the results and move on it. I know that Virginia has a terribly high number of suspension and expulsions. After school programs may help, I will talk to the experts.

Page 6: Question 4: Health Insurance

Q5

Virginia's Children's Health Insurance Program (known as FAMIS in Virginia) and Medicaid provide low-income children with health insurance that their families would otherwise be unable to afford. If the federal government cuts payments to the states for Medicaid and/or FAMIS, how would you support the health needs of low-income children?

I support the expansion of Medicare in Virginia. If these funds were cut, we would have to raise revenue to offer an alternative. We would have to raise taxes on tobacco and alcohol. We would have to close the subsidies for the coal industry and apply some of those funds. In 2015, it was estimated that almost 455,000 firearms were sold in the Commonwealth, I think with the measures already mentioned and an appropriate tax on individual gun sales that is earmarked for children's health issues, we could fund this.

Page 7: Question 5: Opioid Epidemic

Q6

Substance abuse by parents affects both the parents and their children. Brain research shows that positive attachment between a parent and child in the first few years of life is critical to the child's healthy brain development. Substance abuse can significantly impact those early bonds between parents and children. If elected, what policy solutions would you promote to address the needs of the whole family?

We need to study this on many levels. Are opioids being overprescribed? Do we need to limit the drug companies interactions with the General Assembly? Medicare for all may be part of the answer. Increasing the minimum wage to reduce parental work hours should. Many areas to look into.

Page 8: Question 6: Cross-Systems

Q7

A child can interact with many systems (schools, health and mental health, courts, etc.) as they grow up. A Virginia Children's Cabinet has been established to facilitate cross-agency collaborations at the highest levels of state government. If elected, how would you facilitate this type of cross-agency collaboration for children?

Work to establish "partner" employees between different agencies who are cross-trained in each other position so that they have a better understanding of each others role.

Page 9: Question 7: Mental Health

Q8

In 2016, Virginia ranked 49th in the nation for the rate of youth with major depression who did not receive any mental health treatment. There are many barriers to quality mental health treatment for children, including: type of insurance, place of residence, lack of access and stigma. What do you view as the most significant barrier to effective mental health care for children and adolescents in Virginia, and how would you propose addressing this barrier?

Availability of services. We need a to study a system where we would have available mental health professional to our children in the public school system.

Page 10: Question 8: Education

Q9

The achievement gap between lower income students and their higher income peers and between white students and students of color has been a persistent problem in Virginia that has recently worsened. How would you address the achievement gap in Pre-K to 12 education?

Making sure the funding dispersements are equalized between the students. Home computer solicitation programs, tuition based credit tutor programs, SOL readjustments, after school programs, mentor programs, non profit nature programs. This will have to be studied, these are some things I thought might stimulate learning and equality.