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Date: Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 8:06 PM

Subject: Voices for Children Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

Please accept my responses to your candidate endorsement questionnaire below:

- 1) It is imperative that Virginia offer "early learning " (preschool & all day K) throughout the Commonwealth & develop a basic common curriculum model that can be embellished but not reduced. State funding must be increased. This is an economic issue as well as an educational issue. I have patroned legislation increasing funding for education, bills and budget amendments, every term that I have served as a Delegate; and as a School Board Member I urged the BOS to increase FCPS's funding every year.
- 2) Children returned to their parents after entering foster care are particularly at-risk for multiple problems. These families should receive additional support from social services agencies and healthcare services organizations, as well as undergoing periodic well-being monitoring. This support ought to be the norm throughout the Commonwealth.
- 3) As a Delegate and as a School Board Member, I have consistently fought to improve our public school discipline policies, particularly through instituting parental notification procedures increasing transparency at each step of the discipline process. FCPS has successfully adopted the parental notification measure I championed, but still lacks sufficient transparency. We need these reforms statewide. I have also worked to keep school discipline cases school-based, i.e. staff should not automatically refer violations that may be 'crimes in the community' to the courts or police.
- 4) FAMIS and Medicaid must be kept in place-- with state funding if necessary.
- 5) Closer monitoring of families whose members are at risk for substance abuse, especially for opioid and alcohol abuse, should be instituted along with regular reporting of observations made. We should work to find ways to include a family group wider than the traditional nuclear family (uncles, aunts, grandparents) in prevention efforts. Extending the possibilities for alternative adult support and role modelling will provide a base stronger than that we customarily work from.
- 6) I believe that we should maintain the Children's Cabinet and encourage similar cross-agency collaboration at local levels as well.
- 7) It is difficult to elevate one barrier to the receipt of mental health treatment for children above others. At many ages, children's treatment can be encouraged through counseling their parents. Once a child reaches adolescence, however, the situation changes drastically. Accessing this age cohort is crucial to building resilient and productive adults. The dilemma here is that adolescents are unlikely to seek out treatment on their own. We need to devise effective methods to take mental health treatment to them.
- 8) The most important step to take to begin to close income and racial achievement gaps in public education is that of seriously increasing funding. Without a significant funding increase, all potentially successful efforts will not make a noticeable difference. We must also ensure that students have equal access to learning tools employed by the school

system. For example: online textbooks are sometimes used exclusively in a certain classroom, but are not equally accessible by all students in that class because devices and connectivity are not equally accessible.

Thank you for the opportunity to request your endorsement.

Sincerely,

Kaye Kory
Delegate
District 38