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## Page 2: Contact Information

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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?

The "non-system" is an excellent way to have education at all levels. This allows many ways of educating children. Some will be better and some will be worse. As time goes by, the better ones can be copied and used more, and the ones that are worse will go away. If we allow the money to follow the child, then natural selection will improve our educational system at a faster rate. It is imperative for our state to improve our educational system and parental choice is the best way to do it. Give educational liberty and justice to ALL.

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## 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?

Foster care for children should be rare. Parents should be presumed to know what is best for their children. Foster care should only be used when proof of abuse or neglect are proven. It is extremely unhealthy for children to be placed into it. Support for parents with children at risk should always be the prime objective of the child welfare system.

As a parent of two children that I take to parks about 100 times a year, I take great pride in allowing them to have maximum freedom. Several times I have had bystanders ask me why I am letting my child play by the lake or dance on the dock. Allowing this is vital to childhood development. Many high profile incidents of the child welfare system getting involved when children are given freedom have happened. I will author or co-sponsor legislation to allow parents to raise their children as they see fit.

The Commonwealth can better support children once they are returned to their families by having support be voluntary. After a traumatic experience of having your children taken by the state, it is no surprise that most of the help is ineffective. This is probably an area where charities have a large edge over state, as the parents will have less fear of help from non-government agencies.

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#### 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?

School resource officers should be replaced with security guards. Police officers should never interview a child without a parent present. I will propose legislation to make this a reality. Discipline should be handled by the principal not the police.

One of the worst overreactions done by schools is in cases of "sexting". Teenagers have a hard enough time with relationships; getting on a sex offender list should not be one of them for making poor choices with a smart phone. I will propose legislation to prevent this from being a crime.

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#### 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?

Medicaid is an ineffective and expensive way to give medical care. A study in Oregon found that Medicaid was worse than no coverage at all, for all measured parameters other than depression in a randomized study. Of the federal government cuts funding to Medicaid, it should be seen as an opportunity to change our health safety net to a system that does work. Singapore has the lowest health care cost of an industrialized nation as a percent of GDP, approximately one third of what we spend. They also have the second best medical outcomes in the world. Giving the poor money into a HSA, and requiring them to purchase catastrophic illness insurance would be a much better system.

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#### 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?

I would legalize marijuana and decriminalize personal use quantities for all other drugs. We do not strip alcoholics from their families because they have a substance abuse problem, neither should we for other drugs. The creations of single parent households by our war on drugs is one of the strongest moral arguments for ending it. I will allow parents the opportunity to love their children, by not having them imprisoned for a medical condition.

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#### 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?

Other than filling out redundant forms, we should not centralize too much information. Schools should not give information to the courts. Schools should not have personal medical information about students. Sharing information should be consensual, not compulsory.

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#### 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?

I would encourage using online options. Modern technology that was not available when I was a child can increase accessibility, and lower cost.

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#### 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?

School choice one of the biggest issues that I am campaigning on. As a dyslexic that was also in the gifted and talented program, my parents had to move twice to allow me to have adequate educational opportunities. We must end zip code based education. If parents can send their children to any public school they choose and the funding will follow the child, schools will be forced to provide a better education or will cease to exist. Furthermore, seventy five percent of the money allocated to a child can follow them to private or home schools.

When I went to collage for engineering, my parents did not have to move. I chose a private school that cost less than a state school. America has the best university system in the world. We do not have the best k-12 education system in the world. The difference is choice. No parent should be forced to move twice, so that their child can get an appropriate education. It is an inter-generational poverty trap for those without the means to move to have no educational choices. I will liberate our education system from zip code based tyranny we presently have and give educational justice to the poor.

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