

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2017 6:17:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2017 6:22:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:26
IP Address: 173.79.146.53

Page 2: Contact Information

Q1

Please provide your contact information below.

Name	Kathy Tran
District	HD42
Address	P.O. Box 2731
City/Town	Springfield
State/Province	VA
ZIP/Postal Code	22152
Email Address	info@kathyfordelegate.com
Phone Number	7034248390

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?

As a former board member of the Esther Peterson Child Development Center at the U.S. Department of Labor, I understand the critical importance of early learning in determining future academic and career success. Virginia's non-system of early childhood education and childcare allows for significant variations in the quality of programs. I will push to ensure all child care and pre-K providers meet quality and safety standards, and have the resources and technical assistance needed to meet them. I will also advocate for a universal and interconnected early childhood education system by working to build partnerships between child development centers, pre-K schools, and K-12 systems to help ease transitions between each stage.

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?

The first objective in foster care is to work with families to improve conditions for their children so that families can be reunited. Once that transition back happens, we must continue to support these children and families through reunification assessments, evidence-based aftercare policies that ensure children's access to quality health and mental health services, and strong community-based networks of support for families and children struggling after reunification who could be vulnerable to reentry into foster care.

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?

Students are increasingly sent to police for minor, non-violent behavior. This has long term-effects: it makes it difficult for them to stay on track to graduate, increases their likelihood of experiencing mental health and substance abuse problems and participating in gang activity, and has repercussions on their employment and housing prospects in the long-term. I will push for measures such as targeted class size reduction that prioritizes at-risk youth, better resources to equip teachers and school resource officers with alternative responses to misbehavior, summer employment programs to expose youth to career opportunities, and extracurricular programs to engage youth in mentoring and other activities.

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 will always work to protect and expand Virginians' access to quality, affordable health care. Expanding Medicaid in the commonwealth would ensure that 400,000 vulnerable Virginians will no longer have to decide between paying for health care over other essentials, or waiting for a chronic condition to reach an emergency situation before seeking treatment. I will also work to expand children's access to health insurance under FAMIS, and simplify the enrollment process to make it more accessible to families.

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?

Substance abuse and the opioid epidemic is an urgent issue that has affected countless families and communities across Virginia, including my own. Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable to being affected for the rest of their lives. I will fight to ensure all pregnant women and new mothers have access to community-based, evidence-driven rehabilitation services in safe environments.

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?

We have seen the importance of strong interagency collaboration in improving the quality of social services provided to families and children in individual localities, like the City of Hampton. If elected, I will work to grow this success for my own community and across the commonwealth by pushing for increased communication and coordination and between child-serving agencies, such as by leveraging resources, data, and case management systems, so that we have a comprehensive approach to supporting Virginia's families and children.

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?

If elected, I will fight to increase funding for and access to critical mental health services across Virginia, including by supporting community health centers and other community-based providers, so that children and adolescents have access to quality, affordable, and timely mental health care in their own communities and near their families.

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?

We need to ensure all children in Virginia have access to high-quality public education. As a mom of four and president of my local PTA, I am a strong advocate for investing in our public school system so that we are able to attract and retain the best teachers; foster a nurturing, individualized learning environment that includes cultural competence and assessment based on student growth; and ensure that all children have access to robust academic and extracurricular activities so that they can thrive and compete in the global economy.

As a former board member of the Esther Peterson Child Development Center, I also understand the critical importance of early childhood education in determining future academic success. This is another key piece of addressing the achievement gap, and I will fight for universal pre-K in Virginia.