

## Strengthen Equitable Access to Comprehensive Health Care That Includes Oral Health!

The Future of Public Oral Health Taskforce, anchored by Virginia Health Catalyst, supports the following policy proposals to build and preserve a public oral health care system that works for Virginia's patients, providers, and communities.



**Strengthen Virginia's Oral Health Workforce! Support [Item 279 #7h \(Willett\)](#) and [Item 271 #4s \(VanValkenburg\)](#).** Loan repayment programs improve provider recruitment and retention in underserved areas. Delegate Willett and Senator VanValkenburg's \$1.6 million budget amendment will enable the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority to make annual loan repayment awards for 20 dentists and 20 dental hygienists in return for serving Virginia's most underserved populations.



**Protect Virginia's Medicaid Expansion! Support [Item 288 #21s \(Hashmi\)](#) and [Item 288 #22s \(Deeds\)](#).** Medicaid is the public health insurance program for many low-income and disabled Americans. Congress is considering proposals to reduce the federal government's financial contribution to the program. Reducing this contribution could put coverage at risk for over 600,000 Virginians. Senators Hashmi and Deeds' budget amendments would prevent the automatic disenrollment of Medicaid expansion enrollees.



**Expand Access to School-Based Health Care! Support [Item 295 #9h \(Laufer\)](#).** Place-based care brings health care to where people are, including community centers, places of worship, and schools. Delegate Laufer's language-only budget amendment will accelerate the establishment of school-based health care programs, making care more readily available to Virginia's children.



**Support Virginia Community College System Dental Hygiene Programs! Support [Item 200 #5h \(Laufer\)](#).** Virginia's community college dental hygiene programs are declining. Programs have up to eight times as many applicants as they can accept, partially because of clinical faculty shortages. Delegate Laufer's \$980,000 budget amendment would help address this issue by helping VCCS hire and retain faculty.



**Design a Community Health Worker Medicaid Benefit! Support [Item 292 #1h \(Sickles\)](#) and [Item 292 #13s \(Pillion\)](#).** Community health workers (CHWs) improve health, reduce disparities, and save money. Delegate Sickles' and Senator Pillion's budget amendments will fund the design of a CHW Medicaid benefit, leading to a more sustainable CHW workforce and more access to comprehensive care.

## FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH TASKFORCE MEMBERS

Community Health Center of the New River Valley  
CrossOver Healthcare Ministry  
Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation  
Department of Medical Assistance Services  
Eastern Shore Rural Health  
Eastern Virginia Medical School  
Germanna Community College  
Head Start Virginia  
Mountain Empire Community College  
New Horizons Healthcare  
Old Dominion University/Eastern Virginia Medical School  
Richmond Memorial Health Foundation  
Safety Net Dental Directors Group  
The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis  
VCU Health System  
Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics  
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry  
Virginia Community College System  
Virginia Community Healthcare Association  
Virginia Dental Association  
Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association  
Virginia Department of Health  
Virginia Department of Health Professions  
Virginia Department of Social Services  
Virginia Health Care Foundation  
Virginia Health Catalyst  
Virginia Health Information  
Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority  
Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association  
Virginia Western Community College  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
Private Practice Dentists