Governor Ralph Northam
Dismantling Racism
Report Card

Dismantling Racism Workshop B-
Confederate Monuments B+
Stop Compressor Station F
Restorative Justice in Schools C+
Police Profiling F
Public Transit D
Affordable Housing C
Study Racism in State Government A-
Enroll Eligible People in Medicaid B

A year ago we asked Governor Northam to do more to dismantle racist policy in Virginia. We gave him a list of first steps. This is his report card. Details on the back!
We asked the governor to do the following:

1. Go beyond “sensitivity training” to attend and require the cabinet and executive branch staff to attend a Dismantling Racism workshop. Progress: they started discussions of this with us, but the General Assembly and COVID halted that.
2. Suspend the Dillon Rule to allow localities to remove monuments that honor the Confederacy from public spaces, or simply decree that such monuments be removed. Progress: the governor signed the Monument bill in April.
3. Stop the construction of a natural gas compressor station in the historic African American community of Union Hill in Buckingham County to begin to address the glaring issue of environmental racism. Progress: nothing has been done.
4. Fund programs for restorative justice in our public schools (to help dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline that hurts so many of our children, especially African American boys, students with disabilities, and gender non-conforming girls). Progress: there hasn’t been more funding, but the Department of Education seems to be working on this issue.
5. Fund and hire a police profiling data collections officer for the state police. Progress: Nothing has been done.
6. Work with localities to fund efficient and effective public transit systems connecting low-income communities and communities of color with job sites and educational and technical training sites. Progress: Nothing has been done.
7. Work with public and private agencies to expand and upgrade affordable housing. Progress: several good bills were signed but the crisis continues.
8. Listen to and work with the Legislative Black Caucus to identify and address any and all manifestations of racism and white supremacy in government, and then work to dismantle it. Progress: Dr. Janice Underwood was hired and started many commissions looking at these issues before COVID interrupted.
9. Fund and staff agencies to enroll all qualified Virginians in our newly expanded Medicaid program. Progress: CoverVa reports 400,000 adults have qualified for Medicaid since the expansion, which was the number of people estimated to need it before expansion. Health disparities continue to affect people of color, and thousands more have not yet received coverage.