

VIRGINIA ORGANIZING

News from the Grassroots

October 2020 Issue 95

Save Our Health Care Virginia Media Conference

Save Our Health Care! Call to Action

Call Sen. Mark Warner and Sen. Tim Kaine:

- Thank them for opposing this rushed process
- Encourage them to lobby their colleagues

Sen. Mark Warner: 202-224-2023

Sen. Tim Kaine: 202-224-4024

#SaveOurHealthCare



On Tuesday, September 29, Virginia Organizing leaders from around the Commonwealth took part in a virtual media conference on Zoom and Facebook Live. Leaders are concerned about the nomination of a Supreme Court justice who has spoken against the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and they wanted to know how the law being overturned might affect their access to health care.

National health care expert Tim Jost participated and took questions about the consequences of a negative SCOTUS decision. Several leaders told their stories about why the ACA means so much to their survival. Board member Ebony B. Guy of Danville hosted the conference and also spoke from her experience, saying, "When you have pre-existing conditions, it doesn't just affect one person. It can take down a whole family or a whole community."

"People in my situation who would lose Medicaid Expansion are going to die," said Terry White, a member of the Norfolk Chapter. "Without the ACA, we wouldn't have access to getting medical treatment or medications that we need. I've been working on healthcare issues for 10 years. This issue impacts me personally. The new Supreme Court justice could undermine everything I've worked for, especially with preexisting conditions and being on a fixed income. If I have to pay out of pocket for prescriptions, it would cost at least \$3,000 a month."

Liz Zavala of Harrisonburg has also received health care coverage because of the ACA. "I am 21 and because of the Affordable Care Act I can stay on my parent's health insurance five more years. The ACA means peace of mind while I'm trying to get through college," Zavala said.

Kiyanna Court of Bristol said, "If the Supreme Court strikes down the ACA, my husband and I will have preexisting conditions that will prevent us from being insured, and from having the life changing medications we need... I want all Americans to know that the fight over the next Supreme Court nominee is a fight for my family, and millions like us who need our basic healthcare needs met in order to work and live. Please hear me when I say that this is too important a decision to rush; and that the consequences of a Trump appointee will be harsh, the impact will last for generations."

Missed it? You can still watch it on our Facebook page. Facebook.com/VirginiaOrganizing



Concerts on Facebook Live

Coming up: don't miss the SUN SiNG in Place! A coalition of environmental justice groups will be hosting a concert on Facebook Live (and YouTube and Vimeo) on October 15 at 7 p.m. to benefit Virginia Organizing. We will also be sharing stories and video about the work of our leaders to make sure everyone can vote.

If you missed the Front Porch benefit concert for Virginia Organizing on September 30, you can still watch on Facebook or listen on WTJU in Charlottesville tonight (October 2) at 8 p.m.

Charla Informativa Sobre las Licencias de Conducir

Sábado 19 de Septiembre

COMENZAREMOS PRONTO

INVITADAS ESPECIALES: DELEGADA ELIZABETH GUZMAN Y ACTIVISTA LENKA MENDOZA



Shenandoah Valley Chapters Sponsor Information Session on Driver's Licenses

Delegate Elizabeth Guzman and activist Lenka Mendoza joined the Shenandoah Valley Chapters and the Salvadoran Committee (CO-SPU) on Zoom and Facebook Live for an information session in Spanish in September. The purpose of the session was to get the word out to the immigrant community in Virginia that it is possible to get a driver's license regardless of immigration status now. They also explained the cost and process to apply for the driver's license. The video has been viewed by more than 500 people.

Leader of the Month - Gerie Fatundimu of the Martinsville/Henry County Chapter!



When a Virginia Organizing intern first stopped in Gerie Fatundimu's consignment business in uptown Martinsville, Gerie was happy to talk with her and fill out a survey. Five years later, Gerie has become an active leader in the Martinsville/Henry County Chapter (and so has Ellen Cabiness, the former intern who first recruited Gerie!).

"It's my civic duty to make a difference. There are so many battles in this world. You have to pick and choose what is important enough right now to fight for," said Gerie.

As a cancer survivor, Gerie knows a thing or two about fighting. After ignoring symptoms and delaying treatment for years due to a lack of insurance coverage before the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Gerie was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer. Thankfully, she survived, but many of the women she met through treatment didn't. That's why Medicaid expansion is so important to her.

"Everybody in the organization did so much work to win Medicaid expansion. It was a dream that we didn't give up on," said Gerie. "Even now, we're fighting to protect it and the whole Affordable Care Act from this administration. We can't ever sit down. Who would have thought that right now, during a pandemic, the president would be trying to get rid of people's health care?"



In the last few months, Gerie has spoken at a virtual roundtable to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare, helped record a Get Out The Vote PSA with her local chapter, and attended the Grassroots Gathering.

"If you don't fight, you're saying YES to whatever happens. It's my responsibility to say something and do what I can. So many people have done much, much more than me before, and future generations are depending on us to do something."

On behalf of the entire organization, thank you for fighting for what you believe in—and helping to build power to make real change in Virginia, Gerie. We couldn't do it without you!



VIRGINIA ORGANIZING 2020 BEACH RAFFLE

One week in a 3-bedroom, ocean front
condo in Hilton Head Island, South
Carolina



Raffle Winner

Our good friend and longtime neighbor at the Charlottesville office, Eric, drew the winner for our 2020 raffle. The name he drew was Solveig Kjeseth, a member of the Lynchburg Chapter. Congratulations, Solveig! The prize is a week in a three bedroom condo on the beach in Hilton Head.

Take Action!

Utility Debt Relief

From our friends at Clean Virginia: please contact members of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee and urge them to follow Governor Northam's budget plan. We want Dominion to forgive unpaid electric bills, not make them predatory loans! You can find these members on the General Assembly's website.

And, of course, before November 3, make a plan to...

Vote!



New Chapter starting in Waynesboro - Stay Tuned!

Local Chapters and Areas Served:

Charlottesville/Albemarle County, Danville, Eastern Shore, Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, Fredericksburg, Lee County, Lynchburg, Martinsville/Henry County, New River Valley, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Staunton/Augusta County/ Waynesboro, Suffolk, Washington County

On Campus: Virginia Highlands Community College, Emory and Henry, UVA Wise, JMU, EMU, UVA, NSU, ODU, VT, Radford, Virginia Wesleyan, TCC, UMW

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