Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) Legislative Priorities for 2022

Economic Justice/Worker Justice

- **Paid Sick Days for All.** VICPP and the Virginians for Paid Sick Days coalition won paid sick days for 30,000 home healthcare aides in 2021, but Virginia needs a standard for all 1.2 million workers without paid sick days. (Key staff: Jase Hatcher)
- **Removing the Farmworker Exemption on Minimum Wage.** In 2020 and 2021, VICPP sought to remove the farmworker exemption on minimum wages, but that go-around was unsuccessful. Removing the exemption has passed in the House of Delegates, but not the Senate. (Key staff: Sheila Herlihy)

Criminal Justice Reform

- **Limiting Use of Solitary Confinement.** VICPP is leading the faith advocacy in the Virginia Coalition on Solitary Confinement. A bill was killed last year in the Senate over financial issues (the bill was given a huge price tag). The Coalition has addressed the financial concerns of the Administration and is building support for reforms. (Key staff: Salim Khalfani)
- **Pretrial Detention/Cash Bail.** VICPP is leading the faith advocacy in the Virginia Pretrial Justice Coalition. This coalition is making sure that poor people do not end up in jail before their trials simply because they are poor and don’t have access to bail funds or attorneys. (Key staff: Salim Khalfani)

Poverty and Racial Equity

- **Affordable Housing.** VICPP is supporting three budget amendments to help Virginians have access to affordable housing. One amendment, $300 million, is to build new affordable housing units through the Virginia Housing Alliance. The second, $150 million, is to establish a state rental assistance program. The third, $10.5 million, is to create a Restorative Homeownership Pilot Program to increase homeownership among African Americans and others who have been historically excluded from homeownership opportunities through redlining, lack of access to credit, or other forms of discrimination. The Restorative Homeownership Pilot Program has been designed by the Virginia Poverty Law Center. (Key staff: Kim Bobo/Dora Muhammad)

Health Equity

- **Implicit Bias Training Mandate.** VICPP recommends that implicit bias training become a mandate for all licenses issued and renewed for medical personnel. Studies have repeatedly shown that African Americans, particularly African American women, are not listened to by their doctors, receive fewer needed tests and referrals, and have poorer health outcomes, than others regardless of income and insurance. VICPP has drafted legislation and is identifying patrons. (Key Staff: Dora Muhammad)
- **Incentivize Investment in Food Deserts.** Addressing food deserts was identified as one solution in "Virginia's Roadmap to End Hunger" released in October 2020 by the Governor's Children's Cabinet. VICPP will support legislation that addresses this problem. (Key Staff: Dora Muhammad)