Investing in Workers and a More Equitable Post-COVID Economy

Raise the Minimum Wage to $15 by 2024, Provide Paid Sick, Family & Medical Leave, Make Childcare More Affordable, and Create Pathways to Good-Paying Jobs for All Virginians

THE PLAN

As Virginia's next Governor, Terry will tackle inequities and rebuild a stronger, more equitable post-COVID economy. Terry will rebuild Virginia's thriving network of small businesses, especially Black and Brown-owned businesses, that have been hit the hardest. His plan will raise the minimum wage to $15/hour by 2024, support caregivers, make childcare more affordable and ensure that every worker has access to paid sick, family and medical leave, as women, particularly women of color, are being driven out of the workforce. Terry will also create a seamless 5-year pathway to high-demand, good-paying careers by building on Governor Northam's G3 program.

TERRY’S RECORD

As Virginia's 72nd Governor, Terry created 200,000 good-paying jobs, raised personal income by 14%, and reduced unemployment to 3.3%, despite inheriting a record budget deficit and facing the effects of the Great Recession and sequestration. Terry also secured a record $1 billion investment in education, redesigned the high school experience with an eye toward workforce readiness, invested in apprenticeships, and created the first-in-the-nation New Economy Workforce Credentials Act, which enabled 26,000 people to get high-demand credentials and step into good jobs.

THE WORK AHEAD

• Rebuild small businesses, particularly Black and Brown-owned businesses that have closed at disproportionate rates.
• Raise the minimum wage to $15 by 2024, address pay disparities and ensure that every Virginian has access to paid sick, family and medical leave.
• Create a seamless 5-year pathway from K-12 to career, and expand work-based learning opportunities for students.
• Strengthen community colleges and associate degree programs by funding advisors and support services, increasing short-term immersion programs and stacking credentials, and establishing Career and Technical Education certificate programs for educators.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the inequities that hardworking Virginians and women of color have faced for generations. We must act boldly to rebuild a stronger, more equitable post-COVID economy that lifts up all Virginians.

Terry McAuliffe

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