Supporting Women in the Workforce

Addressing Barriers for Women in the Workforce

THE PLAN

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, women in the U.S. have lost 5.4 million jobs, accounting for more than half of total job loss during the pandemic. As Virginia’s next governor, Terry will work to address the unique challenges that are making it even harder for women in the workforce and driving too many women out of it. Terry will keep schools safely open, make child care more affordable, ensure every three and four-year-old in need has access to pre-k, invest in before and after school programs and ensure every worker in Virginia has access to the paid sick, family and medical leave they need. Terry will also increase business ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities for women, improve access to capital and technical assistance for women-owned businesses and raise the minimum wage to $15 minimum by 2024.

THE WORK AHEAD

• Keep schools safely open by urging all school divisions to require vaccines for all school personnel.
• Ensure that every Virginian has access to paid sick, family and medical leave and raise the minimum wage to $15 by 2024.
• Expand pre-k to more than 40,000 three and four-year-olds in need.
• Make child care more affordable by continuing subsidies and COVID-era flexibilities for women seeking work, and expand access to before and after school programs that address learning loss for kids and allow parents to stay in the workforce.
• Create a revolving loan fund to provide low-interest loans to small businesses and provide technical assistance to grow strong women-owned businesses.
• Drive more young girls and women into good-paying jobs of the future by making Virginia the best state in the nation for STEM-H and computer science education.

THE WORK AHEAD

COVID-19 has been particularly hard on women in Virginia’s workforce. As governor, I will fight to support women in the workplace by keeping schools safely open, making child care more affordable, expanding access to pre-k and investing in before and after school programs so that women can get back to work and continue providing for their families.

Terry McAuliffe

TERRY’S RECORD

As the 72nd Governor of Virginia, Terry established the annual Virginia Women’s Summit to engage and empower women to lead in collaboration with the Virginia Council on Women. Terry also invested in women-owned businesses by creating a SWaM microloan program. As governor, Terry fought to make health care more affordable for women, expanded pre-k for thousands of children, and worked to create new pathways to good-paying jobs and get more women into STEM-H and cybersecurity careers. His efforts included making Virginia the first state to mandate computer science education for all K-12 students and hosting cybersecurity boot camps.

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