



MARK KEAM

CANDIDATE FOR 35TH DISTRICT (D)

Should Virginia use federal funding to expand Medicaid that bridges the gap between the current Medicaid program and qualifying for marketplace subsidies?

Yes - I strongly support Virginia and all states expanding Medicaid as offered through the Affordable Care Act, and have voted to expand Medicaid every time the issue came to the House Floor.

Should Virginia provide health care coverage for those under 18, regardless of immigration status?

Yes - I believe good quality healthcare should be provided to everyone in Virginia, regardless of their legal status, age, or ability to afford the care, and if the private sector insurance companies or healthcare providers are unable to do so, I believe the state should provide a safety net to those who meet certain minimum means tests and other eligibility. In no case, however, should the patient's legal status be a determining factor for eligibility.

Do you support state and/or local law enforcement agencies volunteer to become deputized ICE agents and enforce civil immigration laws by signing a 287(g) agreement?

Yes - Virginia already has some local jurisdictions that are party to 287(g) agreements with the federal government, and I support maintaining such agreements in place as long as they are voluntary, each officer is adequately trained and the program is fully funded.

Should all age-eligible individuals who pass the driving exam be allowed a driver's license, regardless of immigration status?

Yes - As a matter of public safety, every person who drives a motor vehicle in Virginia should be licensed and insured, regardless of their legal status.





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Do you support policies that protect cooperating victims of crime and witnesses from routine immigration inquiries by law enforcement?

Yes - Victims of crime or witnesses should be encouraged to step forward to cooperate with law enforcement, rather than fear interacting with them due to immigration status.

Should the minimum wage be raised to \$15 in Virginia?

Yes - Virginia does not have our own minimum wage rate, but instead, refers to the federal standard. However, the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 is way below what a working family should be earning. Raising it to \$15 would come closer to a living wage.

Should Virginia rescind its "right to work" law?

Yes - The right to work law in Virginia has been in place for many decades and there have been no serious efforts to rescind it, but there have been efforts to go the other way to include it in the Constitution. I strongly opposed that effort and was pleased to help defeat it on last year's ballot.

Should the state establish a new top income tax rate bracket (current top bracket is \$17,000) and update our current brackets to account for inflation?

Yes - I support comprehensively reforming the tax codes for both Virginia and at the federal level to ensure that tax policies reflect the realities of income inequality, benefits rising to the top earners, shrinking of the middle class and the continuing cycle of poverty facing the working class.

Should Virginia protect or expand funding for programs and services that benefit English Language Learners?

Yes - As a former ESL student, I support all efforts to allow more Virginians to learn English. As a member of the Virginia Literacy Foundation's board, I'm also supportive of programs that provide English literacy services to adults.





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Should college in-state tuition rates be available to any student who graduates from a Virginia high school, regardless of immigration status?

Yes - I have been a strong supporter of providing in-state tuition to undocumented students who graduate from Virginia high schools and have cosponsored and voted to support various DREAM Act legislation in the House. I also worked on the federal DREAM Act as a Senate staff.

What strategies do you support to expand college affordability?

One strategy is to encourage low income students to consider attending community colleges for two years while living at home and to transfer to a four-year public institution where they will graduate two years later. This will help save on both tuition and room/board while obtaining a degree from a highly regarded university.

What steps would you take to improve language access of state documents and agencies to English Language Learners?

I have encouraged state agencies that deal with limited-English populations to hire personnel who speak more than one language and to look for ways to provide translated versions of commonly-requested documents.

Do you support no excuse absentee voting?

Yes - I support any and all efforts to make voting easier and more accessible for all qualified voters.

*photo taken from Delegate Mark Keam website

