

Date: December 15, 2025

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
President pro tempore, Senate of Virginia  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Don Scott  
Speaker, Virginia House of Delegates  
355 Crawford Street Suite 704  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Dear President pro tempore Lucas and Speaker Don Scott:

On behalf of the Metro Ministers Political Action Committee (Metro PAC), we extend our appreciation for your leadership and service to the citizens of the Commonwealth. As a social and political organization focused on empowering all communities, especially the marginalized and promoting equitable opportunity for all Virginians, we write to share our legislative priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session.

The Metro PAC seeks to partner constructively with policymakers to address persistent inequities that undermine Virginia's progress and shared prosperity. We urgently seek your support for the following priority areas:

### **1. K–12 Education Reform and Fair Opportunity**

We support fully funded and equitable public education that ensures every child—regardless of ZIP code—has access to high-quality schools, qualified teachers, safe learning environments, and modern instructional resources.

Our goals include:

- Strengthening the state's funding formula to reduce disparities between localities
- Expanding early childhood education access
- Protecting and enhancing the standards of quality for historically under-resourced school divisions
- Increasing support for mental health and school-based wrap-around services
- Retaining and developing a diverse educator workforce

Education remains the foundation for upward mobility, and now is the time to invest boldly.

### **2. Economic Growth and Real Affordability for Working Families**

We advocate for a Virginia economy that works for everyone.

Key priorities include:

- Supporting small and minority-owned businesses through capital access and state procurement fairness
- Expanding workforce development and apprenticeship opportunities
- Increasing affordable housing production and tenant protections
- Advancing policies that address the rising cost of living, including transportation, childcare, and utilities

A thriving Commonwealth must ensure that everyday Virginians can build a life of dignity without being priced out of their communities.

### **3. Criminal Justice Reform and Community Trust**

Safety and justice must coexist. We support policies that:

- Reduce racial disparities in policing, sentencing, and incarceration
- Expand diversion programs, rehabilitation, and reentry support
- Promote transparency and accountability within law enforcement and the courts
- Invest in violence prevention and community-led intervention strategies

Every Virginian deserves to be treated fairly and to live in communities where trust between citizens and institutions is strong.

### **4. Accessible and Affordable Healthcare for All**

Health equity is fundamental to the public welfare and to strong families. We encourage efforts to:

- Expand access to primary care, behavioral health, and maternal health services
- Reduce prescription drug costs and insurance barriers
- Address health workforce shortages in underserved communities
- Strengthen Medicaid coverage and enrollment access

A just healthcare system ensures that wellness is not determined by income, race, or geography.

We respectfully request opportunities to meet with your respective committee leadership to discuss how MMPAC and the Commonwealth can collaborate to advance these priorities and to ensure that progress in Virginia includes all Virginians.

Thank you for your continued service and for considering these priorities as you shape the future of our Commonwealth. We look forward to working alongside you to make Virginia stronger, more competitive, and more equitable for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Rev. Gary McCollum  
Chair  
Metro Ministers Political Action Committee