First and Foremost: The Budget:

VRA members: Call to Action on amending the budget for increased VR funding

Please take a few minutes this week to email your delegate and state senator to ask for their support of a budget amendment that VRA is supporting for $1,000,000 to increase funding for the VR program.

Our budget amendment patrons are:

- In the House of Delegates, Del. Ron Villanueva (VA Beach and a member of the Disability Commission) is carrying the House budget amendment. It is numbered “Item 332 #1h.”
- In the Senate, Sen. Frank Wagner (VA Beach and a family member of a person with autism) is carrying the Senate budget amendment, numbered “Item 332 #1s.”

Reminder:
*Bills starting with HB are in the House of Delegates; Make sure to contact your State Delegate  
**Bills starting with SB are in the State Senate; Make sure to contact your State Senator  
***For info on your State Delegate or State Senator go to: http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/

HB 1966 - Massie - Education improvement scholarships tax credit
Expands the education improvement scholarships tax credit program by removing the requirement that a child with a disability be a student enrolled or recently enrolled in public school in order to be eligible.

HB 2106 - Byron - Virginia Board of Workforce Development
Requires funding for a full-time Executive Director and includes the Career Readiness Certificate with industry credentials determining career readiness.

HB 2109 - Kory - Persons with disabilities Service Dog:
Expands the definition of "service dog" to include dogs trained to assist with therapeutic contact or emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship.

HB 2396 - Hope / SB 1538 - Hanger - Virginia Public Procurement Act;
Provides that contracts and subcontracts (current law: contractors only) be awarded to an agency's and a contractor's small business, women-owned, and minority-owned (SWaM) business contracting and subcontracting goals.

HB 2425 - Anderson / SB 1530 - Vogel - Individuals with disabilities employment
This bill establishes a goal to increase by five percent the level of individuals with disabilities employed by state government by fiscal year 2023.
HJ 545 - Head - Constitutional amendment; powers of General Assembly
Provides that the General Assembly may suspend or nullify any or all portions of any administrative rule or regulation by a joint resolution agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each house.

SB 981 - Stanley - Charity health care services; liability protection
Provides that persons rendering services to patients in certain clinics shall not be liable for any civil damages unless the act was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

SB 1449 - Chase - Regulatory Management, Division of, and Red Tape Reduction
Creates the Division of Regulatory Management (the Division) within the Department of Planning and Budget to develop and maintain a state regulatory baseline of all current requirements. Any subsequent requirement proposed by an agency that is not included in the initial state regulatory baseline will require the approval of the Division before it may be enacted. The bill also creates the Red Tape Reduction Commission to provide recommendations to reduce the baseline regulatory requirements.

SB 1500 - Favola - School Health Advisory Board
Establishes the School Health Advisory Board in the executive branch to advise the General Assembly on pending legislation concerning health policy that affects elementary and secondary schools.