



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

Action Alert!

Alert No: 17-04

January 23, 2017

This "Action Alert!" is a call to action for League members and friends throughout the state to communicate with their local legislators and various committee members. We ask the legislators to take actions on proposed legislation as described in the alert below. Members may discuss the pros or cons as an individual but not as a League member. Our requests to legislators are based on our positions or those of LWVUS. It is most effective to contact your own legislator. While the legislature is in session is the best opportunity to educate legislators and to allow them to make informed decisions.

Always keep our League policy in mind:

*"Only the President or her designee is authorized to speak for the League. However, we encourage all members to contact their public officials as **individuals**, whether or not they agree with a League position."*

Stop the School to Prison Pipeline

Tell Your Senator to Support These Bills!

Three critical School to Prison Pipeline bills are expected to come before the Senate Education and Health Committee this Thursday 1.26.17. All three bills are sponsored by Sen. Bill Stanley (R) and are co-patroned by both Democrats and Republicans.

See below for how you can help!

Below is the list of Senate Education and Health Committee members. Three key bills are expected to come before the committee this Thursday. Please contact your Senator now if s/he is on this list with the following message:

- Support SB995: Redefines long-term suspension to 11-45 days.
 - Currently, students can be suspended for up to 364 days, more than one full school year. This bill would still allow suspensions up to one marking period in length.
 - [SB995 One-Pager](#)
- Support SB996: Prevents long-term suspension and expulsion for purely disorderly or disruptive conduct.
 - This is important to keep children in school receiving instruction (behavioral, as well as academic).
 - [SB996 One-Pager](#)
- Support SB997: Prevents out-of-school suspension and expulsion for students in PreK-3rd grade except in certain instances involving weapons, drugs, or very serious crimes.
 - [SB997 One-Pager](#)

Too many Virginia students are swept off the path towards graduation when they are excluded from school due to suspension or expulsion, consequences which do little to improve behavior or school climate. The vast majority of suspensions were issued for non-violent, relatively minor misbehavior – approximately half of the underlying incidents involved cell phones, disruption, insubordination, defiance, or disrespect.

Appropriate behavior needs to be taught, and students need to be in school to learn. Suspensions were disproportionately issued to male students, African-American students, and students with disabilities. At least 25 school divisions suspended between 25% and 40% of their African-American students with disabilities.

If your senator is not on the list below, please take a few minutes to contact people you know in these districts and share this message. Constituent input makes a real difference.

Senate Education and Health Committee Members

1. **Sen. Stephen D. Newman** (Campbell County (Part), Botetourt County, Craig County, Bedford County (Part), Roanoke County (Part), Lynchburg City (Part))
 - a. (804) 698-7523
 - b. district23@senate.virginia.gov

2. **Sen. Richard L. Saslaw** (Alexandria City (Part), Fairfax County (Part), Falls Church City)
 - a. (804) 698-7535
 - b. district35@senate.virginia.gov

3. **Sen. L. Louise Lucas** (Brunswick County (Part), Chesapeake City (Part), Franklin City (Part), Isle of Wight County (Part), Portsmouth City (Part), Southampton County (Part), Suffolk City (Part), Emporia City, Greensville County, Sussex County, Surry County (Part))
 - a. (804) 698-7518
 - b. district18@senate.virginia.gov

4. **Sen. Janet D. Howell** (Fairfax County (Part), Arlington County (Part))
 - a. (804) 698-7532
 - b. district32@senate.virginia.gov

5. **Sen. Mamie E. Locke** (Hampton City (Part), Newport News City (Part), Portsmouth City (Part), York County (Part))
 - a. (804) 698-7502
 - b. district02@senate.virginia.gov

6. **Sen. George L. Barker** (Fairfax County (Part), Prince William County (Part), Alexandria City (Part))
 - a. (804) 698-7539
 - b. district39@senate.virginia.gov

7. **Sen. Richard H. Black** (Loudoun County (Part), Prince

William County (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7513
- b. district13@senate.virginia.gov

8. Sen. Charles W. Carrico, Sr. (Lee County, Scott County, Washington County, Bristol City, Smyth County (Part), Wise County (Part), Grayson County, Wythe County (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7540
- b. district40@senate.virginia.gov

9. Sen. J. Chapman Petersen (Fairfax City, Fairfax County (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7534
- b. district34@senate.virginia.gov

10. Sen. John A. Cosgrove, Jr. (Chesapeake City (Part), Virginia Beach City (Part), Isle of Wight County (Part), Southampton County (Part), Franklin City (Part), Portsmouth City (Part), Suffolk City (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7514
- b. district14@senate.virginia.gov

11. Sen. Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr. (Accomack County, Mathews County, Northampton County, Norfolk City (Part), Virginia Beach City (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7506
- b. district06@senate.virginia.gov

12. Sen. Siobhan S. Dunnivant (Henrico County (Part), Hanover County (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7512
- b. district12@senate.virginia.gov

Note: Sen. Dunnivant is a co-patron on the bills, so please thank her for her leadership!

13. Sen. Amanda F. Chase (Chesterfield County (Part), Colonial

Heights City, Amelia County)

- a. (804) 698-7511
- b. district11@senate.virginia.gov

14. Sen. David R. Suetterlein (Floyd County, Salem City, Bedford County (Part), Carroll County (Part), Franklin County (Part), Montgomery County (Part), Roanoke County (Part), Wythe County (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7519
- b. district19@senate.virginia.gov

15. Sen. Mark J. Peake (Amherst County, Appomattox County, Buckingham County, Cumberland County, Fluvanna County, Goochland County, Prince Edward County, Louisa County (Part), Lynchburg City (Part))

- a. (804) 698-7522
- b. district22@senate.virginia.gov

Thanks to the Legal Aid and Justice Center for providing this information.



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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