



Contact List for Birth in Color Priority Legislation + Prewritten Emails

Click to navigate to the bill you want to contact legislators about. Contact lists and prewritten emails are provided for all of Birth in Color's Priority Legislation for VA General Session 2024.

1. [Stillbirth Support Fund House HB584, Del. King, Senate SB525, Sen. Williams-Graves](#)
2. [Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team Senate SB140, Sen. Carroll Foy, House HB997, Del. Anthony](#)
3. [Maternal Mortality Review Committee Expanded Process Senate SB490, Sen. Aird, House HB831, Del. Cousins](#)
4. [Private Insurance Doula Coverage Bill Senate SB118, Sen. Locke, House HB935, Del. Bolling](#)
5. [Black Maternal Health Week Declaration Senate SJ23, Sen. Aird, House HJ44, Del. LeVere Bolling](#)
6. [Unconscious Bias Bill Senate SB35, Sen. Locke, House HB1130, Del. Hayes](#)
7. [Fertility preservation Bill SB333 & SB335, Sen. Salim, HB278, Del. Helmer - fertility preservation coverage under Medicaid](#)



Stillbirth Support Fund [House HB584](#), Del. King, [Senate SB525](#), Sen. Williams-Graves

Who to ask to support the Stillbirth Support Fund [HB584](#),[SB525](#)

In the House, contact ...

- Hope (Chair) - DelPHope@house.virginia.gov
- Price - DelMPrice@house.virginia.gov
- Willett - DelRWillett@house.virginia.gov
- Herring - DelCHerring@house.virginia.gov
- Shin - delishin@house.virginia.gov
- Hodges - DelKHodges@house.virginia.gov
- Wachsmann - delowachsmann@house.virginia.gov
- Taylor - delktaylor@house.virginia.gov
- Sickles - delktaylor@house.virginia.gov

In the Senate, contact ...

- Lucas (Chair) - senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
- Deeds - senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov
- Locke - senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
- Marsden - senatormarsden@senate.virginia.gov

- Ebbin - senatorebbin@senate.virginia.gov
- McDougale - senatormcdougale@senate.virginia.gov
- Obenshain - senatorobenshain@senate.virginia.gov
- Stuart - senatorstuart@senate.virginia.gov
- Reeves - senatorreeves@senate.virginia.gov
- Favola - senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
- Surovell - senatorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov
- McPike - senatormcpike@senate.virginia.gov
- Boysko - senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov
- Pillion - senatorpillion@senate.virginia.gov
- Hashmi - senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov

You can copy + paste this message and fill in the appropriate details! Please modify as appropriate when sending to House or Senate committee or subcommittee members.

Dear **(Senator/Delegate)**,

My name is **[name]**, and I live in **[house district]** and in **[senate district]**. I am writing to you to urge you to support **[SB525 or HB584]**, the Stillbirth Support Fund, carried by **[Sen. Williams Graves or Delegate Mundon King]**. This bill will establish a fund to support families that undergo a stillbirth after 20 weeks or pregnancy. This bill has been assigned to your **[Committee/Subcommittee]**.



[Personal Story - if you would like to share your story or personal reasons for supporting this important bill.]

Unlike families who lose a child even seconds after birth, families who suffer a stillbirth do not have the ability to claim that loss on their tax return, and neither Virginia nor the Federal Government have a tax credit available to cover things like uncovered medical expenses, expenses associated with the disposition of the remains or bereavement pay for those whose employers do not provide paid leave in these circumstances. Yet, most of these families have expended the same money, the same resources - they have furnished a nursery, bought cribs, and rearranged their lives to welcome a child - but they did not bring a healthy baby home from the hospital. This bill will provide much needed assistance in an incredibly difficult time to Virginians, allowing them to grieve with dignity. I hope you will support this important bill.

Thank you,

[name]

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team [Senate SB140](#), Sen. Carroll Foy, [House HB997](#), Del. Anthony

Who to ask to support the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team HB997, SB140

In the House, contact ...

- Scott, D.L. (Chair) - DelDScott@house.virginia.gov
- Helmer - DelDHelmer@house.virginia.gov (Vice Chair)
- Watts - DelVWatts@house.virginia.gov
- Ward - DelJWard@house.virginia.gov
- Sickles - DelMSickles@house.virginia.gov
- Herring - DelCHerring@house.virginia.gov
- Carr - DelBCarr@house.virginia.gov
- Torian - DelLTorian@house.virginia.gov
- Simon - DelMSimon@house.virginia.gov
- Hayes - DelCHayes@house.virginia.gov
- Sullivan - DelRSullivan@house.virginia.gov
- Tran - DelKTran@house.virginia.gov
- Gilbert - DelTGilbert@house.virginia.gov
- Kilgore - DelTKilgore@house.virginia.gov
- Austin - DelTAustin@house.virginia.gov
- Webert - DelMWebert@house.virginia.gov
- O'Quinn - DelIOQuinn@house.virginia.gov



- Batten - DelABatten@house.virginia.gov

In the Senate, contact ...

- Favola (Chair) - senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
- Suetterlein - senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov

- Bagby - senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov
- Aird - senatoraird@senate.virginia.gov
- Durant - senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov

You can copy + paste this message and fill in the appropriate details! Please modify as appropriate when sending to House or Senate committee or subcommittee members.

Dear (Senator/Delegate),

My name is [name], and I live in [house district] and in [senate district]. I am writing to you to urge you to support [SB140 or HB997], the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team, carried by [Sen. Carroll Foy or Delegate Anthony]. This bill will re-establish a state Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team in Virginia.

[Personal Story - if you would like to share your story or personal reasons for supporting this important bill - for example if you have suffered or watched someone else suffer the loss of a fetus or an infant who never found out the reason why or felt that the death may have been preventable but the medical system failed them.]

A Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team existed in Virginia until 2012, but the project was defunded. We know that these kinds of Teams can be incredibly effective, if provided with adequate time and resources to do their work. Virginia is continuing to experience disparities in maternal deaths and we know those same disparities are present in infant and fetal deaths. We also know that many of these deaths are preventable. A Fetal and Infant Review Team that has appropriate resources and funding can discover where folks are falling through the cracks and how to ensure that we can develop policies and processes that help prevent deaths that are preventable. I urge you to support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

[name]



Maternal Mortality Review Committee Expanded Process [Senate SB490](#), Sen. Aird, [House HB831](#), Del. Cousins

Who to ask to support the Maternal Mortality Review Committee Expanded Process HB831, SB490

In the House, contact ...

- Scott, D.L. (Chair) - DelDScott@house.virginia.gov
- Helmer - DelDHelmer@house.virginia.gov (Vice Chair)
- Watts - DelVWatts@house.virginia.gov
- Ward - DelJWard@house.virginia.gov
- Sickles - DelMSickles@house.virginia.gov
- Herring - DelCHerring@house.virginia.gov
- Carr - DelBCarr@house.virginia.gov
- Torian - DelLTorian@house.virginia.gov
- Simon - DelMSimon@house.virginia.gov
- Hayes - DelCHayes@house.virginia.gov
- Sullivan - DelRSullivan@house.virginia.gov,
- Tran - DelKTran@house.virginia.gov
- Gilbert - DelTGilbert@house.virginia.gov
- Kilgore - DelTKilgore@house.virginia.gov
- Austin - DelTAustin@house.virginia.gov
- Weibert - DelMWeibert@house.virginia.gov
- O'Quinn - DelIOQuinn@house.virginia.gov
- Batten - DelABatten@house.virginia.gov

In the Senate, contact ...

- Locke (Chair) - senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
- Lucas - senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
- Deeds - senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov
- Marsden - senatormarsden@senate.virginia.gov
- Favola - senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
- Ebbin - senatorebbin@senate.virginia.gov
- McPike - senatormcpike@senate.virginia.gov
- Surovell - sensorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov
- Boysko - senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov
- Hashmi - senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov
- Rouse - senatorrouse@senate.virginia.gov
- McDougale - senatormcdougale@senate.virginia.gov
- Stuart - senatorstuart@senate.virginia.gov
- Peake - senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov
- Pillion - senatorpillion@senate.virginia.gov



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Dear *(Senator/Delegate)*,

My name is *[name]*, and I live in *[house district]* and in *[senate district]*. I am writing to you to urge you to support *[SB490 or HB831]*, patroned by *[Sen. Aird or Del. Cousins]* the bill to create a workgroup to recommend changes to the Maternal Mortality Review Team that will expand the Team's scope to include morbidity and involve more community healthcare workers, doulas and others who work with the affected communities.

[Personal Story - if you have a story or stories of serious postpartum complications and the ways these have affected you or others, please share these here; whether your personal experience or, with permission, experience of others. If you are a doula or work with doulas and other community healthcare workers, please mention that here and how you believe their perspectives can help in finding solutions to virginia's maternal morbidity and mortality crises]

Virginia has a Maternal Mortality Review Team, but the work of this Team can and should be expanded to cover morbidity as well. We know that the same racial disparities that exist for maternal mortality, exist when it comes to near misses. Without examining these near misses and talking to the pregnant persons involved, we do not have a complete picture of how people are falling through the cracks. And without community doulas and other community healthcare workers working outside the traditional healthcare system, we do not have the full range of expertise when it comes to divining interventions and solutions. I urge you to support this important bill and the associated budget amendments.

Thank you,

[name]

**Private Insurance Doula Coverage Bill [Senate SB118](#), Sen. Locke, [House HB935](#),
Del. Bolling**

Who to ask to support the Private Insurance Doula Coverage Bill SB118, HB935

In the House, contact ...

- Maldonado (Chair) - delmmaldonado@house.virginia.gov



- Sullivan - DelRSullivan@house.virginia.gov
- Shin - delishin@house.virginia.gov
- LeVere Bolling - Deldleverbolling@house.virginia.gov
- Kilgore - DelTKilgore@house.virginia.gov
- Wilt - DelTWilt@house.virginia.gov
- McNamara - DelJMcNamara@house.virginia.gov
- Ward - DelJWard@house.virginia.gov

In the Senate, contact ...

- Deeds (Chair) - senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov
- Obenshain - senatorobenshain@senate.virginia.gov
- Lucas - senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
- Marsden - senatormarsden@senate.virginia.gov
- Ebbin - senatorebbin@senate.virginia.gov

- Surovell - senatorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov
- Stanley - senatorstanley@senate.virginia.gov
- McDougle - senatormcdougle@senate.virginia.gov
- Locke - senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
- Reeves - senatorreeves@senate.virginia.gov
- DeSteph - senatordesteph@senate.virginia.gov
- McPike - senatormcpike@senate.virginia.gov
- Peake - senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov
- Rouse - senatorrouse@senate.virginia.gov
- Bagby - senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov

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Dear **(Senator/Delegate)**,

My name is **[name]**, and I live in **[house district]** and in **[senate district]**. I am writing to you to urge you to support **[SB118 or HB935]**, patroned by **[Senator Locke or Delegate LeVere Bolling]**, the bill to require certain private health insurance plans doing business in Virginia to cover doula care. I understand that ultimately the bill would have to go to the Health Insurance Reform Commission for consideration; however, I hope that the bill can receive a full vote of the Senate before being sent to the Commission to demonstrate the importance of this issue and the support of the members of the General Assembly for the extension of coverage to doulas.

[Personal Story - if you have a story about being a doula or receiving services from a doula and how that has helped you or your clients in the birthing process, please add it here.]



Doulas are invaluable birth workers. Numerous studies have documented the benefits of having a doula present during labor. A recent Cochrane Review, Continuous Support for Women During Childbirth, showed a very high number of positive birth outcomes when a doula was present. With their support, women were less likely to have pain-relief medications administered and less likely to have a cesarean birth. Women also reported having a more positive childbirth experience. Other studies have shown that having a doula as a member of the birth team decreases the overall cesarean rate by 50%, the length of labor by 25%, the use of oxytocin by 40%, and requests for an epidural by 60%. With the maternal mortality crisis continuing, and given the severe racial disparities in maternal mortality and health outcomes; I urge you to support this important bill that will add one more way we can tackle these important problems.

Thank you,

[name]

Black Maternal Health Week Declaration [Senate SJ23](#), Sen. Aird, [House HJ44](#), Del. LeVeré Bolling

Who to ask to support the Black Maternal Health Week Declaration SJ23, HJ44

In the House, contact ...

- Scott, D.L. (Chair) - DelIDScott@house.virginia.gov
- Helmer - DelIDHelmer@house.virginia.gov (Vice Chair)
- Watts - DelVWatts@house.virginia.gov
- Ward - DelJWard@house.virginia.gov
- Sickles - DelIMSickles@house.virginia.gov
- Herring - DelCHerring@house.virginia.gov
- Carr - DelBCarr@house.virginia.gov
- Torian - DelLTorian@house.virginia.gov
- Simon - DelMSimon@house.virginia.gov
- Hayes - DelCHayes@house.virginia.gov

- Sullivan - DelRSullivan@house.virginia.gov
- Tran - DelKTran@house.virginia.gov
- Gilbert - DelTGilbert@house.virginia.gov
- Kilgore - DelTKilgore@house.virginia.gov
- Austin - DelTAustin@house.virginia.gov
- Webert - DelMWebert@house.virginia.gov
- O'Quinn - DelIOQuinn@house.virginia.gov
- Batten - DelABatten@house.virginia.gov

In the Senate, contact ...



- Locke (Chair) - senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
- Lucas - senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
- Deeds - senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov
- Marsden - senatormarsden@senate.virginia.gov
- Favola - senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
- Ebbin - senatorebbin@senate.virginia.gov
- McPike - senatormcpike@senate.virginia.gov
- Surovell - sensorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov
- Boysko - senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov
- Hashmi - senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov
- Rouse - senatorrouse@senate.virginia.gov
- McDougale - senatormcdougale@senate.virginia.gov
- Stuart - senatorstuart@senate.virginia.gov
- Peake - senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov
- Pillion - senatorpillion@senate.virginia.gov

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Dear **[Senator/Delegate]**,

My name is **[name]**, and I live in **[house district]** and in **[senate district]**. I am writing to you to urge you to support **[SJ23 or HJ44]**, patroned by **[Senator Aird or Delegate LeVere Bolling]**; the bill will establish a Black Maternal Health Week in Virginia.

[Personal Story - have you or anyone you cared for had negative experiences in maternal healthcare because of their race? If you can, please share your stories here.]

Black women die at higher rates than white women from childbirth. This holds true even when you control for income and education. In Virginia, much like in other states, these disparities persist despite the efforts to change these trends. The statewide declaration places a necessary emphasis on these disparities and the efforts needed to change them. I hope you vote for this important legislation.

Thank you,

[name]



Unconscious Bias Bill [Senate SB35](#), Sen. Locke, [House HB1130](#), Del. Hayes

Who to ask to support the Unconscious Bias Bill SB35, HB1130

In the House, contact ...

- Price (Chair) - DelMPrice@house.virginia.gov
- Hayes - DelCHayes@house.virginia.gov
- Tran - DelKTran@house.virginia.gov
- Cole - DelJCole@house.virginia.gov
- Srinivasan - DelKSrinivasan@house.virginia.gov
- Hodges - DelKHodges@house.virginia.gov
- Cherry - delmcherry@house.virginia.gov
- Owen - DelDOwen@house.virginia.gov
- Sickles - DelMSickles@house.virginia.gov

In the Senate, contact ...

- Hashmi (Chair) - senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov
- Lucas - senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
- Locke - senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
- Suetterlein - senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov

- Peake - senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov
- Pillion - senatorpillion@senate.virginia.gov
- Favola - senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
- Boysko - senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov
- Bagby - senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov
- Head - senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov
- Aird - senatoraird@senate.virginia.gov
- VanValkenburg - senatorvanvalkenburg@senate.virginia.gov
- Durant - senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov
- Pekarsky - senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov
- Craig - senatorcraig@senate.virginia.gov

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Dear **(Senator/Delegate)**,

My name is **[name]**, and I live in **[house district]** and in **[senate district]**. I am writing to you to urge you to support **[SB35 or HB1130]**, patroned by **[Senator Locke and Head or Delegate Hayes and Coyner]**; the bill will require doctors and nurses to undergo mandatory training around implicit/unconscious bias including racial bias to maintain licensure.



[Personal Story - have you or anyone you cared for had negative experiences in maternal healthcare because of their race? If you can, please share your stories here.]

Black women die at higher rates than white women from childbirth. This holds true even when you control for income and education. In Virginia, much like in other states, these disparities persist despite the efforts to change these trends. It is just as important for medical professionals to learn about and take account of their biases as they treat their patients. It is an important piece of legislation that will help, in combination with other vital legislative efforts introduced this year, to combat the existing maternal mortality and health disparities in the Commonwealth. I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you,

[name]

Fertility preservation Bill [SB333](#) & [SB335](#), Sen. Salim, [HB278](#), Del. Helmer - fertility preservation coverage under Medicaid

Who to ask to support the Fertility Preservation Bill SB333 & SB335, HB278

In the House, contact ...

- Tran (Chair) - DelKTran@house.virginia.gov
- Shin - delishin@house.virginia.gov
- Srinivasan - DelKSrinivasan@house.virginia.gov
- Henson - DelRHenson@house.virginia.gov
- Gardner - DelDGardner@house.virginia.gov
- Orrock - DelBORrock@house.virginia.gov
- Walker - DelWWalker@house.virginia.gov
- Higgins - DelGHiggins@house.virginia.gov

- Sickles - DelMSickles@house.virginia.gov

For SB333, in the Senate, contact ...

- Hashmi (Chair) - senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov
- Lucas - senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
- Locke - senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
- Suetterlein - senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov
- Peake - senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov
- Pillion - senatorpillion@senate.virginia.gov



- Favola - senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
- Boysko - senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov
- Bagby - senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov
- Head - senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov
- Aird - senatoraird@senate.virginia.gov
- VanValkenburg - senatorvanvalkenburg@senate.virginia.gov
- Durant - senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov
- Pekarsky - senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov
- Craig - senatorcraig@senate.virginia.gov

For SB 335, in the Senate, contact ...

- Hashmi (Chair) - senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov
- Lucas - senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
- Locke - senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov

- Suetterlein - senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov
- Peake - senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov
- Pillion - senatorpillion@senate.virginia.gov
- Favola - senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
- Boysko - senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov
- Bagby - senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov
- Head - senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov
- Aird - senatoraird@senate.virginia.gov
- VanValkenburg - senatorvanvalkenburg@senate.virginia.gov
- Durant - senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov
- Pekarsky - senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov
- Craig - senatorcraig@senate.virginia.gov

Although it is not on our list of first tier priority bills, we also support the broader bill by Delegate Helmer to make private insurance in Virginia cover IVF and Fertility Preservation more globally.

To support House Bill: HB560 (Del. Helmer), the bill to mandate that private insurance provide coverage for IVF through fertility preservation, contact ...

- Maldonado (Chair) - delmaldonado@house.virginia.gov
- Sullivan - DelRSullivan@house.virginia.gov
- Shin - delishin@house.virginia.gov
- LeVere Bolling - Deldleverbolling@house.virginia.gov
- Kilgore - DelTKilgore@house.virginia.gov
- Wilt - DelTWilt@house.virginia.gov
- McNamara - DelJMcNamara@house.virginia.gov
- Ward - DelJWard@house.virginia.gov



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Medicaid Coverage for Fertility Preservation in Cancer Patients (SB333, HB278) Text of Message to send to Committee Members

Dear *(Senator/Delegate)*,

My name is *[name]*, and I live in *[house district]* and in *[senate district]*. I am writing to you to urge you to support *[SB335 or HB278]*, patroned by *[Senator Salim or Delegate Helmer]*; this bill would require certain private insurance plans in Virginia to cover fertility preservation for cancer patients whose treatment is likely to negatively impact their fertility.

[Personal Story -if you or someone you know has undergone cancer treatment that has impacted their fertility, please share the story here.]

People of color and poor women already have lower access to fertility treatments. Not only that, but unconscious or conscious bias on the part of providers means that they are less likely to even receive appropriate counseling around these treatments even when faced with a cancer diagnosis that may impact their fertility. Cancer strikes young people and with modern medicine, these people can go on to live full, productive lives after going into remission and beating the disease; however, their treatments may rob them of the ability to have the kind of family they want later in life. And these decisions often have to be made quickly, without much time to gather resources, get help or truly consider one's options. The mere fact that a person is on Medicaid during a portion of their life when they receive a devastating cancer diagnosis and have to choose between their fertility and their life should not mean that they don't have access to proven fertility preservation treatments. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

[name]

Private Insurance Coverage for IVF and Fertility/Fertility Preservation for Patients with Cancer Diagnosis (SB333, HB278) Text of Message to send to Committee Members: Please modify as appropriate when sending to House or Senate committee or subcommittee members.

Dear *(Senator/Delegate)*,



My name is [name], and I live in [house district] and in [senate district]. I am writing to you to urge you to support [SB333 or HB278], patroned by [Senator Salim or Delegate Helmer]; the bill will require Medicaid coverage for fertility preservation for cancer patients whose treatment impacts their fertility.

[Personal Story -if you or someone you know has undergone cancer treatment that has impacted their fertility, please share the story here.]

People of color and poor women already have lower access to fertility treatments. Not only that, but unconscious or conscious bias on the part of providers means that they are less likely to even receive appropriate counseling around these treatments even when faced with a cancer diagnosis that may impact their fertility. Cancer strikes young people and with modern medicine, these people can go on to live full, productive lives after going into remission and beating the disease; however, their treatments may rob them of the ability to have the kind of family they want later in life. And these decisions often have to be made quickly, without much time to gather resources, get help or truly consider one's options. Fertility preservation is expensive and almost never covered by private insurance. Even families with means struggle to find the resources in the short time between finding out about the cancer diagnosis and fertility implications of treatment and having to begin treatment to preserve life and health. Infertility can have devastating psychological, emotional consequences as well as consequences on one's ability to find or retain a partner, have the kind of life one desires. These decisions are especially painful for young people, whose lives are barely just beginning. Providing private insurance coverage in these difficult circumstances can significantly improve the life and health of cancer patients in Virginia. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

[name]