

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Virginia Coalition Calls on Governor Spanberger to act for Virginia's Affordability, Business, and Freedom**

**Lexington, VA**—As attention shifts to the Governor’s decisions on key legislation, a coalition representing twelve public policy organizations across Virginia hand-delivered the *Power of the Pen 2026* book, published today, to Abigail Spanberger’s office.

From housing to medical deserts, from protecting Virginia’s Constitution to the education provided to Virginia’s children, the book provides recommendations and analysis on over 80 bills considered by the General Assembly in the 2026 Session.

In a spirit of co-operation and bipartisanship, the Virginia Conservative Leaders Network (VCLN) has taken a nuanced, thoughtful approach: recommending signatures, amendments and vetoes as appropriate to *actually* advance priorities such as Affordability, strengthen Virginia’s public schools, and grow the Commonwealth’s economy.

The VCLN recommended that the Governor sign 20 key bills on her desk, proposed by Democrats and Republicans alike.

However, the VCLN warned of “devastating” economic consequences from other bills. The sum total of the bills on the Governor’s desk would add 22% to the cost of hiring a worker, putting people out of jobs and destroying business in Virginia. The overall cost has been estimated at over \$2 billion per year. Householders would face a 20% hike in their energy bills over the next two to three years, health insurance premiums could spike, and healthcare shortages affecting over 1 million mainly rural Virginians in “medical deserts” could worsen.

The coalition also highlighted measures which could severely worsen confidence in Virginia’s free and fair elections, and policies which erode the rights of families.

“If the Governor is truly the moderate she considers herself to be, we stand ready to work with her to find a path forward to ensure genuine affordability, support business and

improve every part of Virginia’s education. This is more important than Left or Right, it’s about Virginia’s future”, said Lynn Taylor on behalf of the VCLN.

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Notes for Editors:

1 – The VCLN comprises organizations including the Virginia Institute for Public Policy, Americans For Prosperity (Virginia), The Family Foundation, Virginia Institute Action, The Yorktown Foundation for Public Policy, the Virginia Tea Party, The Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy, the Virginia Council, the Virginia Citizens Defense League, the Virginia Education Opportunity Alliance, as well as organizations working on single policy issues.

2 – The full Power of the Pen book is available at [virginiaaction.org/power-of-the-pen](http://virginiaaction.org/power-of-the-pen)

3 – In total, the VCLN recommends 20 signatures, 58 vetoes, and 4 amendments.

4 – Each policy area is signed off by certain organizations within the VCLN. As not every organization engages on the full range of policy areas, nothing in *Power of the Pen* should be taken to assume a position by an organization on a policy area which does not feature their name and logo. For example, Virginia Institute Action does not currently take a position on family/moral issues and for this reason is not a signatory on Family policy.

5 – In 2025, Power of the Pen achieved a remarkable 86.2% success rate

6 - For interviews, please contact Jonathan Haines at [jonathan@virginiaaction.org](mailto:jonathan@virginiaaction.org)