

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

This week, I stood with my fellow Senate and House colleagues to challenge Gov. Youngkin to protect Virginians who are facing an unprecedented threat to their livelihoods because of the irresponsible governance of the Trump Administration. Gov. Youngkin must take action to protect Virginia's economy and the most vulnerable in our community.

We are now past crossover and my bills are starting to be heard in House committees. I expect House floor votes will begin for some of my bills as soon as early next week. I hope you will read on for more updates from the week and local resources.



Calling on the Governor to Protect Virginians



I stood with my Senate and House Democratic colleagues this week as we called upon the Governor, LG, and AG to stand up to the Trump administration and prioritize constituents in Virginia feeling the effects of the administration upending countless jobs and livelihoods.

Bills on the Move

Bills Referred out of House Committee

Block 2

S.B. 1212 (Pekarsky)

Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices, mandatory fees or surcharges disclosure.

REPORT WITH SUBSTITUTE

Yea 11 Nay 9 Abs 0

Y Ward	Y Helmer	X LeVere Bolling	N Webert	N Ballard
Y Herring	Y Mundon King	Y Feggans	N Wilt	N Williams
Y Lopez	Y Maldonado	N Kilgore	N McNamara	
Y Sullivan	Y Shin	X Marshall	N Gilbert	
Y Convors-Fowler	Y Jones	N O'Quinn	N Runion	

Chesapeake Oyster Alliance



This week, The Chesapeake Oyster Alliance visited the General Assembly to educate legislators and their staff about Virginia's oyster restoration. Their ambitious goal is to add 10 billion oysters by 2025 in Virginia and Maryland waters.

A broad array of partners collaborate and make up the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance. These partners includes a range of local and regional conservation groups, aquaculturists, and other businesses from Maryland and Virginia.

Pekarsky's staff were able to sample oysters provided by various businesses that span different regions of the Commonwealth.

[Learn More](#)



There has been a Winter Storm Watch issued for Northern Virginia. You can learn more about the expected weather ahead by reading the [latest information from the National Weather Service here.](#)

VDOT has begun pretreating roads. You can learn more about safety information here. [Check the snow plow map here.](#) My office is here to support you during the winter weather. If you believe that your road has not be properly treated or plowed, please reach out directly to my office for assistance.

Constituent Services

Do you live in Senate District 36 and have an issue with?

- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
- Unemployment
- Virginia Taxation
- Housing
- Veteran Services
- Insurance
- Social Services
- Public Safety
- and more

We are here to help!

Introducing Visitors to the Senate



American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA)

This week, Sen. Pekarsky introduced the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) on the Senate floor. ATFA is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization dedicated to community engagement, service, and cultural exchange across Virginia. The non-profit is based in Chantilly.

Virginia Conservation Network



Starting in the summer of 2022, the **Environmental Advocacy Fellowship was established by the Virginia Conservation Network** to develop a pipeline for a more racially diverse group of environmentalists to join our conservation movement. It also serves as an opportunity for individuals aspiring to launch their careers in the environmental sector, particularly those who may not have had the means to pursue an unpaid internship. **They are looking to hire three full-time, paid fellows from June 2nd to August 8th. The application is open until Friday, March 7th, at 11:59 PM EST. Interviews will occur in March and offers will be sent out in April.**

Environmental Advocacy Fellows will join the VCN team over the summer to gain invaluable experience by immersing themselves in summer-long projects designed specifically for the fellowship. Past Fellows have had the opportunity to work on various projects, including:

- Volunteering in grassroots advocacy with non-profit organizations who are a Partner of the Virginia Conservation Network
- Engaging in policy research in VCN's major issue areas: climate & energy, land use & transportation, clean water, and land & wildlife conservation
- Developing virtual events for interns working with our Network to build long-term relationships and form connections with the future leaders of tomorrow!

[Learn More](#)

Local Resources

Flu Season Resources



It is still Influenza (Flu) season and there are rising cases of the Avian Influenza in Virginia. Fairfax County has a [resource page](#) dedicated to providing the latest on flu activity, sites for vaccination, and helpful information for managing influenza.

LGBTQIA+

**One team,
One community,
One love.**



There has been increased anxiety in our LGBTQ+ community since the start of the Trump Administration. Here is a list of local, state, and national resources for support and community.

- **[Safe Space NOVA](#)**
- **[Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia](#)**
- **[PFLAG Metro DC](#)**
 - **Fairfax Adult Group**
Meeting day and time: First Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Location: In person Contact: fairfaxpflag@gmail.com
 - **Fairfax FLY - Youth Group (12-17-y/o)**
Meeting day and time: First Wednesday of each month

from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Location: In person Contact: fairfaxpflag@gmail.com

- **Fairfax Trans Families**
Meeting day and time: Third Sunday of each month from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. Location: Online, via Zoom Contact: TransFamiliesVA@gmail.com (202) 460-6002 (texts only, please)
 - **Crisis Intervention:**
 - **The Trevor Project**: (866) 488-7386
 - The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.
 - **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**: (800) 273-8255 (online chat available)
 - The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - **Crisis Text Line**: Text START to 741-741
 - Crisis Text Line is free, 24/7 support for those in crisis. Text from anywhere in the USA to text with a trained Crisis Counselor.
 - **The LGBT National Hotline**: (888) 843-4564
 - Both provide telephone, online private one-to-one chat and email peer-support, as well as factual information and local resources for cities and towns across the United States.
 - **The LGBT National Youth Talkline**: (youth serving youth through age 25): (800) 246-7743
 - **Trans Lifeline**: (877) 565-8860
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It is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District

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**Cheers,
Stella Pekarsky
Senator, District 36**

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