



Virginia Commission on Youth

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
December 6, 2016

THE HONORABLE BARBARA A. FAVOLA ELECTED CHAIR OF THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

RICHMOND – Senator Barbara A. Favola (D-Arlington) has been elected to serve as the Chair of the General Assembly's Virginia Commission on Youth. The Commission was established by the 1989 General Assembly with the goal of providing a legislative forum in which the complex policy issues related to the healthy development of youth could be explored and solutions offered on how to improve the health and well being of Virginia's young people and their families.

The Commission on Youth's work plan for the 2016 study year has included the following studies and initiatives:

- Virginia's Adoption Home Study Process
- The Use of Segregation in Virginia's Juvenile Detention Homes and Correctional Centers
- Review of Virginia's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
- Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs

"It is a privilege and honor to be selected by my colleagues to chair the Commission on Youth," noted Senator Favola. "Members of this commission are fellow lawmakers and dedicated professionals committed to improving the lives of children and families. I look forward to working with Vice-Chair, Delegate Dickie Bell, Virginia State Agencies, Child-Advocates and others to continue the progress started by Delegate Chris Peace and other Commission leaders."

Senator Favola was elected as a State Senator in 2011 and was appointed to the Commission on Youth by the Senator Rules Committee in April 2013. She represents the 31st Senatorial District, which includes parts of Arlington, Fairfax County and Loudoun. Senator Favola has focused her legislative agenda around children and family issues including K-12 education funding, social services, foster care, and domestic violence issues. Senator Favola has also championed Virginia's Fostering Futures program that extends transitional and-independence support services to youth aging out of foster care. She serves as a member of the Senate Local Government, Transportation and Rehabilitation and Social Services Committees.

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The Commission on Youth is comprised of twelve members: six delegates, three senators and three citizens appointed by the Governor. Previous study topics include seclusion and restraint in public and private schools, mental health assessments for juvenile offenders, and unlawful adoptions. Studies can be accessed at the Commission's website <http://vcoy.virginia.gov>.