

Health and Human Needs

Assisted Living Facilities – *The Washington Post's* series on shocking conditions in Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) put a face on bills I've carried since 1998[^]. Hopefully the extensive documentation and the public's reaction will cut through funding and institutional resistance.

Most states have staffing standards. Virginia does not. In addition to an annual bill to require minimum staffing levels, this session I also introduced a bill to create a level of care between mental facilities and pure custodial care. This would provide separation of populations currently in AFL's, such as frail elderly from mentally ill predators, and provide much-needed case history information to the homes' administrators.

Services for Mentally and Physically Disabled –

We funded 700 new mental retardation slots for individuals on the urgent waiting list, 300 slots for at home services, and 80 slots for developmentally disabled. Rates were also increased for providers for the first time since ^{^^^}.

Consumers

Electricity – To encourage competition before any deregulation proceeds, Virginia Dominion Power rates are capped through 2010 with a fuel adjustment in 2007.

Sunday ABC Sales – Liquor stores in Northern Virginia and Tidewater will be open Sundays after 1 p.m.

Construction Contracts – Based on voter complaints (and my husband's experience as our Homeowners' Association president!), the law is now clear that a contractor who does not have the proper Class A, B or C license for the job can be fined up to \$500 a day.

New Home Air Conditioning – Working with Supervisor Kauffman on serious problems in a new development, we discovered Virginia's Building Code does not have standards for air conditioning. Such standards will be established by March 2005.

Services to Veterans – Last year we unified the Virginia bodies related to the military. I now serve on the Veterans' Services Committee of the board that oversees this unified agency. I need your input as how Virginia can do a better job to help veterans.

Dear Voters -

Have a good summer and
let me hear from you –

✂ Cut here to return questionnaire — — — — —

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