

May 9, 2024

Governor Glenn Youngkin
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Chair L. Louise Lucas
P.O. Box 700
Portsmouth, VA 23705

Chair Luke Torian
4222 Fortuna Plaza, Suite 659
Dumfries, VA 22025

Dear Governor Youngkin, Chair Lucas, Chair Torian, and Budget Conferees,

We write today in support of keeping the Local Composite Index (LCI) cap for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) in the final budget agreement. This cap helps ensure that the state properly incentivizes school divisions to provide quality preschool programs to at-risk four-year-olds unserved by the federal Head Start program. These programs help reduce the disparities among young children when they enter school and reduce the risk factors that can lead to early academic failure. In the absence of the cap, many school divisions would lose millions of dollars in state funding for their preschool programs. While the jurisdictions affected by this cap may be wealthier than average, the populations served through this program are those in much greater need of assistance.

For this reason, Virginia put this cap in place to offer enough money to make it more clearly worth the resources it would take for each school division to offer VPI. We are concerned that if this cap is not included in the final budget that some school divisions may reduce the number of children they accept to participate in VPI. This would place a greater burden on working parents who depend on this program to get their children ready for kindergarten and provide the childcare they need. Please keep the VPI LCI cap in place and ensure continued support for this critical program in all school divisions.

Regards,



Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce
"Your Gateway to Economic Opportunity."

CC: Delegate Mark Sickles, Delegate David Bulova, Delegate Betsy Carr, Delegate Terry Austin, Delegate Robert Bloxom, Senator R. Creigh Deeds, Senator Mamie Locke, Senator Jennifer Boysko, Senator Ryan McDougle, Senator Todd Pillion