



## Virginia 2020 Legislation Plan

- **Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Premiums**

Health Care costs continue to rise, and most retirees are on fixed incomes. Therefore, we support legislation that would amend VA58.1-322(C) to allow retirees to subtract health insurance and long-term care premiums from federal adjusted gross income restrictions.

- **Minimum Nursing Home Standards**

Nursing home residents need adequate certified staff to maintain and improve their physical and emotional quality of life. Current federal regulations require “sufficient” staffing to meet the needs of residents. While many states have adopted minimum staffing levels, Virginia has yet to do so. We urge the Virginia General Assembly to enact legislation to adopt and implement certified nursing home staffing assignments and staffing levels.

- **Non-partisan Redistricting Reform**

Gerrymandering reduces political competition and fosters a climate of partisan gridlock. We urge the General Assembly to pass the exact same language regarding a proposed constitutional amendment for non-partisan redistricting that was approved by the 2019 General Assembly, which is necessary to allow the citizens of Virginia to vote on the issue.

- **Voting Reform**

We commend the General Assembly on passing legislation that allows “no excuse” absentee voting seven days before an election. We urge the General Assembly to pass legislation that expands the “no excuse” absentee voting period to at least 45 days, the same period currently allowed for absentee voting in general in the Commonwealth.

- **Exempting Federal Pensions from Virginia Income Tax**

The annuity paid by the Federal Government should be treated the same as Social Security pensions and should not be taxed as income by the Commonwealth of Virginia. At least nine states already exempt Federal pensions from state tax.

- **Tax Credit for Family Caregivers**

According to an AARP study, the average annual out of pocket expense for family caregivers is almost \$7,000. In addition to the emotional pain, the physical and mental toll it takes on family caregivers, the cost of providing that care can be devastating financially for the family members. We recommend the General Assembly pass a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for family caregivers.