



## VCCA Legislative Priorities for 2023 Advocacy Day

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA, <https://www.virginiaclinicians.org/>) is committed to protecting the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth from the adverse effects of climate change. In working to accomplish this goal we ask that the following three pieces of previously passed legislation be maintained.

### VCEA

By 2045 the health benefits for Virginia include:

- Prevent between 280 and 640 premature deaths.
- Save between \$141 million and \$356 million per year in health costs, for a total savings of \$2.8 billion to \$7 billion over the next 20 years.
- Prevent thousands of work loss days per year, saving Virginia's citizens and businesses \$387,000 annually or \$7.8 million by 2045.
- Avoid the greatest health costs in Chesterfield, Henrico, and Fairfax counties with total annual savings of \$40 million, \$35 million, and \$26 million respectively.

(Virginia Climate Center, George Mason University)

### RGGI

The following health benefits experienced by RGGI states over a five-year period would be expected for Virginia:

Prevention of:

- 420-510 cases acute bronchitis
- 240-540 premature adult deaths
- 8200 asthma exacerbations
- >200 asthma ER visits
- 537 cases of childhood asthma
- 98 cases of autism spectrum disorder
- 112 preterm births

### Advanced Clean Car Standards

Transition to clean transportation decreases air pollution and protects health.

Air pollution from Virginia specific transportation causes:

- **92** deaths
- **71** non-fatal heart attacks
- **220** new cases asthma
- **10,000** lost work days

These health-associated **costs are valued at \$750 million dollars annually.**

(An Assessment of the Health Burden of Ambient PM2.5 Concentrations in Virginia, 2020)



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**VCCA SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING BILLS  
THAT PROTECT THE HEALTH OF VIRGINIANS:**

**Public school buildings and facilities; construction and renovation; renewable energy.**

Directs the Commission on School Construction and Modernization to assist in developing renewable energy generation facilities in the construction of school buildings.

- SB 848 (Favola)

**Department of Emergency Management; comprehensive extreme heat emergency response plan.**

Legislation directs the Department of Emergency Management to develop a comprehensive extreme heat emergency response plan.

- SB 936 (Hashmi)

**Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy**

Authorizes cities of a certain size to consider adopting a healthy communities strategy. This may include identifying neighborhoods with pollution and objectives to reduce health risks there.

- SB 1322 (McClellan)

*Each of the above bills has passed the Senate and will go to the House of Delegates at crossover.*

**VCCA OPPOSES THE FOLLOWING BILLS WHICH THREATEN the Virginia Clean  
Economy Act, Virginia’s Participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative,  
and Virginia’s adoption of the Advanced Clean Car Standards:**

Bills that oppose VCEA		Bills that oppose Clean Cars	Budget items opposing RGGI
HB 1430 Ware	SB 1265 Saslaw	HB 1378 Wilt	HB 1400: Item 114 K1 (Gov. proposal)
HB 1770 Kilgore			SB 800: Item 114 K 1 (Gov. proposal)
HB 1777 O’Quinn			
HB 1783 O’Quinn			
HB 2026 O’Quinn			
HB 2130 Wilt			
HB 2178 Morefield			
HB 2197 Byron			