

2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Our Children, Our Future Campaign to End Child Poverty

TOP PRIORITY – DEFEND OUR FAMILIES

Save Health Care for 225,000 Working West Virginians, Save Child Care for 12,000 Working Families, and an Anti-Poverty Plan for the West Side of Charleston.

Stop Punishing Work & Marriage

Government benefits far too often punish families who get a job, or a raise, or who want to get married. This must end. Contact Stephen Smith at stephen@ourfuturewv.org.

Open 300 Rural Community Centers

State and local government should pass our plan that would encourage, incentivize, and track the opening of 300 rural schools for after-hours “shared use” community centers, which can provide after school education, keep kids safe from drugs, and foster community. Contact Jennifer Wells at Jennifer@ourfuturewv.org.

Create Jobs through Energy Efficiency

Facilitating energy efficiency investments will save families, taxpayers, and small businesses money. As important, these programs will create local jobs paid for by energy savings. The state should mandate energy savings in state buildings and make it easier for local businesses to finance energy efficiency upgrades. Contact Emmett Pepper at Emmett@eewv.org.

Classrooms Not Courtrooms

Our children should be in classrooms, not sent to courtrooms. This proposal requires that schools utilize mental and behavioral health services to address disciplinary problems, rather than utilizing traditional disciplinary methods such as detentions, suspensions, and expulsions. Contact Eli Baumwell at ebaumwell@acluwv.org.

Stay in the State Act

Provide tax credit to all graduates of WV colleges who stay in WV after graduation. The tax credit would be dedicated to paying off outstanding student loans collected from the cost of education and can be provided for up to 10 years to cover up to the total cost of tuition and interest for receiving a bachelor or associates degree at a WV higher education institution. Contact Natalie Roper at natalie@generationwv.org.

State Earned Income Tax Credit

Over 141,000 working families in West Virginia could keep more of their earnings if we enact a state level EITC. The tax

credit can only be claimed by people who pay taxes and work low-wage jobs. Over 160,000 West Virginia children would be helped by this credit. Contact Seth DiStefano at sdistefano@wvpolicy.org.

Agriculture Jobs for Veterans

As a state we need to provide jobs to meet the demand of returning veterans. We support all such programs, including a new one that focuses on bamboo production to support the veterans agriculture funding request, as a means to get veterans back to work and better equipped to re-enter society. Contact James McCormick at james261968@hotmail.com.

Equal Pay, Equal Treatment

Equal Pay, Equal Treatment would provide access for equal pay in WV by making it illegal for an employer enforce a policy that would forbid discussing their wages or to retaliate against a person for discussing his or her wages, and make it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to fail or refuse to hire, discharge or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of such individual's family responsibilities, regardless of gender. Contact Julie Warden at Julie@wvfree.org.

Safeguard our Water

Promote policies protective of West Virginia's drinking water supplies, and defend against every attempt to weaken state water quality standards. Contact Angie Rosser at arosser@wvrivers.org.

Second Chance for Employment

It is immoral, and economically bankrupt, to punish offenders twice. We support second chance expungement legislation and ban the box legislation to make sure people can give back and pay their debts to society. Contact Lida Shepherd at lshepherd@afsc.org.

Prevent Drug Abuse for Every Child

We must guarantee the implementation drug abuse prevention strategies in every grade, every school - starting with School-based LifeSkills training programs for middle

#PROTECTWV - OCOF is a proud supporter of the Protect WV Campaign, to generate new revenue in 2017, and stop mortgaging our children's future with cuts to public education, higher education, and other essential government functions.

Our Children, Our Future is a non-partisan coalition of over 177 congregations, community organizations, schools, unions, chambers of commerce, and other partners – dedicated to ending child poverty in West Virginia. In 4 years, we have worked together to win 21 policy victories. 4300+ community leaders voted on this platform. www.ocofwv.org.

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school youth. Contact *Debbie McDonald* at
debbie.mcdonald@mail.wvu.edu

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