Clinician Advocates for Climate Solutions in Virginia

October 5th 2019

Website: Virginicaclinicians.org
Email: info@virginicaclinicians.org
2015- A new health issue emerges in Virginia

Medical Society of Virginia
Resolution 2016-PASSED!

Protecting Human Health in a Changing Climate

Whereas, a warming world poses significant risks to human health, from: extreme weather events; heat illness; air pollution; allergies; food and water contamination; infectious disease; and…

Virginia AAP supports Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, 2015

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American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

Virginia Chapter

TO: Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee
FROM: Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
DATE: January 28, 2015
RE: Support for SB 1428

On behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am requesting your support for Senate Bill 1428 (McEachin), Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Commonwealth Resilience Fund established. This legislation introduces vital protection for children from the impacts of rising global temperatures, worsening storms and rising sea levels.

Global warming is a major threat to the health, safety and security of children in Virginia. As global temperatures rise, many other major changes are occurring, including melting glaciers, worsening storms and rising sea levels. These fundamental changes ultimately impact human health, and children are at particularly high risk.
Medical Society Consortium on Climate Change and Health

American College of Physicians (ACP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), American Medical Association (AMA), American Thoracic Society (ATS), American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), and the National Medical Association (NMA)

• American Academy of Pediatrics-Policy Statement and Tech Report
• Healthcare Without Harm- Healthcare Climate Council
• American College of Physicians Policy Statement and Toolkit
• American Public Health Association -2017 Year of Climate Change and Public Health
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Climate Ready Cities and States Initiative
• U.S. Global Change Research Program- Climate and Health Report 2016
Mission
Clinician leaders advocating for climate change solutions that protect the health of our patients and communities.

Vision
Clinicians have the knowledge and mission to play a vital role in protecting the health and prosperity of Virginia’s families and communities from climate change. VCCA brings this critical perspective into climate-related policymaking in our state.

Pillars
Education, Advocacy and Community Outreach.
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Education
Delivering conferences and presentations on climate and health at VA medical centers since 2017.

Advocacy
Supporting climate solutions that protect our patients by protecting the climate.

Community Outreach
Informing Virginians about why climate solutions protect the people and places they love.
Organization

Steering Committee Members At Large

General VCCA Members

Environmental organization (e.g. VCN)
Environmental organization (e.g. CCL)
Environmental organization (e.g. Sierra Club)
Medical Professional organization (e.g. ACP)
Medical Professional organization (e.g. AAP)
Medical Professional organization (e.g. MSV)
Membership

- Clinicians = all inclusive of front line health care providers: Physicians, Nurses, Advanced Practice Providers (NPs and PAs), Clinical Pharmacists, Therapists, Case Managers, etc.
- Over 300 general members
- ~15 members in the Steering Committee
- Geographically concentrated in Northern Virginia and Richmond, with goal to have a stronger presence throughout the state, like Roanoke!!
Building a Coalition

Hospitals
- Bon Secours
- Carilion Clinic
- INOVA

Medical Societies
- American College of Physicians®
- American Academy of Pediatrics

Organizations
- American Lung Association
- The Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- Museum of Virginia Science

Universities
- Old Dominion University
- Virginia Tech
- Sierra Club
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
April 2017
Conference, Inova Fairfax Hospital
*Climate Change and Health in Virginia*

January 2018
VCU and UVA Schools of Medicine
*Pediatric Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP*

February 2018
Conference, Bon Secours Health System, Richmond
*Health in a Changing Climate
Understanding the Impacts on Virginians*

March 2018
Inova Fairfax Hospital
*Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Nitin Damle, MD*

May 2018
Practical Strategies to Promote Student Health, Fishersville VA
*Lecture on Environmental Health & Climate Change,
Jerome Paulson, MD, FAAP*

September 2018
Conference, Bon Secours Health System, Portsmouth
*Health in a Changing Climate
Understanding the Impacts on Virginians*

January 2019
Inova Fairfax Hospital
*Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Homan Wai, MD, FACP*

February 2019
Winchester Hospital
*Grand Rounds, Jerome Paulson, MD, FAAP*

May 2019
Inova Health System
*Ask the Expert Lecture, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP*

October 2019
Carilion Children’s Hospital
*Pediatric Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP*

October 2019
Conference, Carilion Medical Center with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Roanoke
*Health in a Changing Climate
Understanding the Impacts on Virginians*
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Clinician Climate Challenge

A campaign to engage health professionals around climate change and health in Virginia.
Advocacy

3rd Annual General Assembly Advocacy Day
January 23, 2020

2018-Present
Supporting Virginia joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
Written comments, Op Eds, hearings and press events

“My patients are the manual laborers who work outside during the hot summer, they’re the elderly, children and low income people who feel the effects of climate change the most,” Dr. Janet Eddy with Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action, said.

November 2018
Steering Committee member Gail Bush, BS, RRT-NPS appointed to Virginia Air Board

March 2019
VCCA table at VA ACP Annual Meeting

April 2019-Present
Resolution to Medical Society of Virginia to support worker heat safety standard
**Community Outreach**

*The Roanoke Times*

Wai: Climate change is making us sicker

Dr. Homan Wal Wal is an Internal Medicine physician at Inova Fairfax Hospital and serves on the Steering Committee of Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action. Aug 9, 2019

*Morning Consult*

Rafiq: Clean power repeal threatens Virginians' health

Nial Rafiq Rafiq is an internist in Falls Church and an Assistant Professor at George Washington University and Georgetown University and a member of Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action. Feb 4, 2017

*The Guardian*

'Like a sunburn on your lungs': how does the climate crisis impact health?

*AAP Voices*

Time to Step Up Efforts to Protect Children from Climate Change

Jerome A. Paulson, MD, FAAP
September 25, 2019

*VCCA*

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
Climate Change Committee

Launched in January 2019

Summit held June 2019

Plan expected in early 2020

www.vdh.virginia.gov/commissioner/administration/climate-and-health/
VIRGINIA ELECTION DAY

what's at stake for KIDS HEALTH?

Expansion of mental health services
Injury prevention & firearm safety
Funding for nutritional programs
Environmental protections
Reducing vaping and tobacco access
Protection of essential health benefits
Medicaid eligibility

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
vote.elections.virginia.gov
Register by OCT. 15th

Virginia Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN
The Power of Clinician Collaboration
Keep In Touch!

Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP
• Pediatrician, Pediatric Associates of Alexandria
• Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, VCU School of Medicine, Inova Campus
• Chair and Founder, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

sahdoot@virginiaclinicians.org
Clinician Advocates for Climate Solutions in Virginia

Making a difference in the Commonwealth

Website: Virginiaclinicians.org
Email: info@virginiaclinicians.org