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‘Roadmap’ Sets Vision for Virginia’s Future, Charts Path to Get There

Institute’s Policy Ideas Focus on Education, Economic Opportunity, Health

RICHMOND, VA – As Virginia’s economy slowly returns to health, policymakers face key decisions about the commonwealth’s future and setting Virginia on the best path to progress. In their latest report, Roadmap: Path to Progress, The Commonwealth Institute documents the key challenges facing the state at this time, and offers a set of policy options to address them.

“As elected officials and those running for public office engage with citizens during this summer and fall, it’s important for everyone to understand the challenges and opportunities facing Virginia families and businesses and to think about the choices we face to create and sustain an economy that works for all,” says Commonwealth Institute President Michael Cassidy. “In ‘Roadmap,’ we offer a perspective on those problems, based on the key trends in our community, as well as a host of policy options that, if adopted, will invest in our people and support the kind of economy where every Virginian who works hard can support their family and build a brighter future.”

“Roadmap” covers broad policy territory from access to quality preschool, state education funding, and career pathways workforce training to wage enforcement, corporate and individual tax reform, and health care access. Despite rising productivity and education, for example, wages for most Virginians have stagnated. Likewise, despite being among the richest states, the number of students per teacher in our schools has grown as the state turns its back on support for public K-12 education. Even though there’s a clear need to invest in our skilled workers, Virginia makes it harder than nearly any other state for working age adults to get the care they need to stay healthy and productive.

“This comprehensive report sets some of our biggest challenges in context and articulates the destination we all want to head for. And then we offer some policy fuel for the journey,” Cassidy says.
The full report is available at www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org. Printed copies were sent to all General Assembly candidates.

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The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis provides credible, independent, and accessible information and analyses of fiscal and economic issues with particular attention to the impacts on low- and moderate-income persons. Our products inform fiscal and budget policy debates and contribute to sound decisions that improve the well-being of individuals, communities and Virginia as a whole. Visit www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org for more information.