



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health  
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ROBERT B. STROUBE, MD., M.P.H.  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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September 14, 2007

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine  
Office of the Governor  
Patrick Henry Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

The 2007 General Assembly enacted HB 3183, establishing the Pregnant Women's Support Fund for women facing an unplanned pregnancy, which was codified in § 32.1-11.6 of the Code of Virginia. The statute requires the State Board of Health (the Board) to provide an annual report to the Governor on activities associated with the fund.

The new statute authorizes the Board to solicit gifts, donations, bequests, and grants on behalf of the fund. The Board is also required to establish a grant application process and related procedures for specific activities identified in the statute, including free home visits by registered nurses. Community health centers, migrant health centers, homeless health centers and public housing centers would be authorized to apply for grants from the fund.

During the 2007 session, VDH provided an estimate of staffing costs to implement and manage this program. The fiscal impact statement published by the Department of Planning and Budget estimated an expenditure impact of \$75,000 and one full time position. However, additional funds to administer this new program were not included in the Appropriations Act.

Because the solicitation for funds is a new authority outside the normal scope of responsibility for the Board and the Virginia Department of Health, examination of all the administrative and operational implications must be thoroughly reviewed, including the provision of necessary staff support. VDH will develop that analysis, along with a proposed grant application process and related procedures, and present it to the Board for its consideration. I will keep you informed as to the Board's decisions about how to implement this new law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert B. Stroube'.

Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H.

cc: The Honorable Marilyn B. Tavenner