



**Abigail
Spanberger**
GOVERNOR

HEALTHCARE: **Making your medications & coverage more affordable**

As Abigail meets with families, patients, and seniors across the Commonwealth, she repeatedly hears about their financial struggles as healthcare and prescription drug costs continue to rise. Virginia deserves a Governor who is focused on lowering these costs for Virginians and defending affordable healthcare coverage.

With the Trump Administration and congressional Republicans targeting Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, the Commonwealth needs a Governor like Abigail now more than ever.

One of Abigail's top priorities will be protecting reliable healthcare coverage and services for the nearly 2 million Virginians on Medicaid — including the more than 600,000 Virginians covered by Medicaid expansion — and for the nearly 400,000 Virginians who get their health insurance through the exchange.

In Congress, Abigail fought to lower drug prices for Virginians and stood up to transnational pharmaceutical companies — and she knows there are steps we can take right now, right here in Virginia to bring down drug prices, save Virginians money, and prevent Virginians from going bankrupt due to a medical emergency.

SPANBERGER

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Lower costs by cracking down on the middlemen — pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) — responsible for inflating the cost of prescription drugs. To both save taxpayers money and drive down drug costs, direct the effective implementation of a single, Virginia-run PBM for the Medicaid pharmacy benefit.

Allow more Virginians to use the pharmacy of their choice. Ban PBMs from steering patients to an affiliated pharmacy AND protect out-of-network pharmacies by ensuring they receive a fair and reasonable payment.

Combat the skyrocketing cost of drugs and improve access to affordable medication. Hold large pharmaceutical companies accountable through strict enforcement of Virginia's price transparency laws. Reduce costs by making better use of Virginia's purchasing power and using innovative payment models, such as value-based purchasing for frequently prescribed, high-cost drugs and emerging therapies. Work with the Commonwealth's local bio companies to increase the production of generic drugs Virginians can afford.

Make sure Virginians get the care they need and deserve. Ensure healthcare providers, not insurance companies, are directing care by limiting prior authorization and step therapy processes, so that Virginians can secure the most effective treatments available.

Improve access to affordable healthcare options in Virginia's rural and underserved communities. Ensure Virginians can see a provider by investing in fields with critical shortages, such as primary care, maternal care, and behavioral healthcare. Protect access to safety net providers that serve vulnerable communities, including community health centers, free clinics, and rural hospitals. Ensure people with disabilities have access to services and choice in their care. Implement the Joint Commission on Health Care's recommendations on telehealth to improve healthcare access and reduce telehealth barriers.

Improve hospital price transparency. Create an easy-to-use statewide hospital price transparency comparison tool to make sure Virginians are getting the best price available.

Stop predatory billing practices harming Virginians. Protect Virginia consumers through strict enforcement of Virginia's surprise billings laws.

Hold scammers accountable for ripping off Virginians. Direct the Attorney General to identify and crack down on scams that are fraudulently enrolling Virginians in unnecessary coverage.