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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VEA Challenges McDonnell on Education**

While Creigh Deeds has a solid 18-year legislative record of support for public education in the General Assembly, Robert McDonnell is suddenly making lots of promises about our schools, much like the desperate student who pulls an all-nighter before the big exam.

“Bob McDonnell’s rhetoric doesn’t match his record,” said VEA President Kitty Boitnott, PhD, NBCT, “He voted against the historic funding increase for our schools proposed by Mark Warner in 2004, and has consistently opposed measures that would have added much-needed dollars for improved instruction and school construction.”

“Now candidate McDonnell has all kinds of new education ideas but he fails to say how much they will cost and how he plans to pay for them,” added Boitnott.

What’s more, Boitnott pointed out, McDonnell has now proposed a plan to address Virginia’s transportation problems by diverting funds from the state’s General Fund, the source of state funding for Virginia’s already-strapped public schools.

And the school-fund draining doesn’t stop there: McDonnell has long been a supporter of vouchers and tuition tax credits, which send public dollars to private schools.

Suddenly, McDonnell is espousing the importance of emphasizing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in our schools and community colleges. In contrast, Deeds had a STEM plan in place almost four months ago. Suddenly, McDonnell is talking about the importance of preparing our high school students to enter the workforce or to pursue a college degree. In contrast, Deeds has made workforce readiness and college affordability the cornerstones of his education agenda for years.

“Creigh Deeds knows what works for our schools and has a record upon which Virginians can rely,” says Boitnott. “We can trust Creigh Deeds because he’s shown the way for almost two decades. Bob McDonnell, on the other hand, has never demonstrated strong support for our public schools, and his record proves it.”

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