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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEA: Northam Announcement a Victory for Students, Schools

Statement from VEA President Jim Livingston on Governor Northam's announcement today regarding the state budget.

When Virginia invests in its public schools, it is investing in Virginia's future.

The additional funding Governor Northam proposed today is good for students, good for public schools, and good for the teachers and other professionals working hard to ensure we have a top-quality public education system.

Since the Great Recession, Virginia public schools have suffered as localities could not overcome funding cuts made in Richmond. Even now, Virginia ranks 42nd in the nation in per-pupil state funding and 34th in average teacher pay.

But Governor Northam is determined to lead Virginia forward, and his increased investments in public schools will help students as well as increase our state's ability to attract and retain a high-performing school workforce. The Governor understands that the state can and must do more to assist localities striving to upgrade their public schools.

Just last month, Virginia bid successfully to bring Amazon to Virginia for one of its two East Coast headquarters. Our future requires technologically skilled graduates—and teachers to teach them. Our public schools are up to the task of preparing the next generation of high-tech workers—and Governor Northam's commitment to K-12 education will pay large dividends.

The Virginia Education Association has built a productive partnership with the Governor, and Governor Northam values the ideas and perspective of those who work in our classrooms. VEA members salute the expression of confidence in today's announcement.

For further information, contact

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