

Virginia Delegate Kathy Byron VA-22



Summary

Campaign Biography

Delegate Kathy J. Byron has been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 22nd legislative district, since being first elected in 1997. As Delegate, Kathy represents portions of Bedford, Campbell, and Franklin Counties, and the City of Lynchburg. She serves as Vice-chairman of the House Commerce and Labor Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee and House Science and Technology Committee.

Kathy also serves on various boards and organizations in the Commonwealth including the Virginia Workforce Development Board, Tobacco Community Revitalization Commission (where she serves as the Chairman of the Research and Development Committee), Unemployment Compensation Commission, American Legislative Exchange Council (where she serves on the Communication and Information Task Force), Joint Commission On Science and Technology, Manufacturing Development Commission, and she chairs the Health Insurance Reform Commission and also the Broadband Advisory Council.

Kathy married Jack Byron in 1973, and currently has three children and five grandchildren. She is a member of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA. She and her husband owned and operated a small business together for over 26 years. [Campaign Biography, [5/8/2018](#)]

ALEC membership/ties

- [Kathy Byron has been on ALEC's Board of Directors since 2016](#)
- ALEC Virginia State Chair, 2018
- Paid \$100 in campaign expenditures to ALEC at the beginning of 2014
- Paid \$100 in campaign expenditures to ALEC at the end of 2014
- Paid \$100 in campaign expenditures to ALEC in 2013
- Attended ALEC's 45th annual conference in New Orleans, 2018
- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force Member, 2011
- Civil Justice Task Force Member, 2011
- Signed ALEC letter in 2013 to Senator Dick Durbin re: Durbin's request to identify ALEC's funders
- Signed ALEC Letter from July 2009 to Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi regarding the Affordable Care Act
- On Personal Financial Disclosure, Kathy Byron lists several gifts from the American Legislative Exchange Council between 2005-2017
- ALEC Legislator of the Week, 5/7/2018
- Signed Confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh ALEC Letter 2018

Legislator of the Week

This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce Virginia Delegate Kathy Byron. Delegate Byron has been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 22nd legislative district, since being elected in 1997. Kathy Byron serves on the Board of Directors at ALEC and is on the Communication and Information Taskforce. Kathy is the Vice-chairman of the House Commerce and Labor Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee and House Science and Technology Committee. Delegate Byron also serves on various boards and organizations in the Commonwealth including the Virginia Workforce Development Board, Tobacco Community Revitalization, Unemployment Compensation Commission, Joint Commission on Science and Technology, and Manufacturing Development Commission. Kathy married Jack Byron in 1973, and currently has three children and five grandchildren. She and her husband owned and operated a small business together for over 26 years.

Why did you run for office?

In my initial campaign, I focused on improving the state's business climate and growing our economy. As the owner of a small business, I believed that government at all levels was placing an unnecessary burden on businesses and stifling economic growth as a result.

In your view, what is the biggest issue facing Virginia?

For Virginia, it continues to be our ability to remain competitive and grow our economy. Having disproportionately relied upon federal government growth to bolster our economy, we have made prosperity much more difficult for regions of the Commonwealth that do not have high numbers of government employees. From our tax structure, to our regulatory bureaucracy, to our efforts to develop our workforce, we have to remain vigilant to advance economic growth – and in fighting efforts that prevent that growth.

If you could “wave your magic wand,” what would you like to see immediately implemented in Virginia?

If I could wave a magic wand, I would repeal our archaic Certificate of Public Need laws. That one action alone would greatly reduce the costs of healthcare for millions of Virginians, advance economic growth, and increase individual choice and freedom.

Do you serve on any committees, if so which committees and why? How do you think you have impacted them?

I serve on many committees, boards, and commissions. I currently chair the Broadband Advisory Council, where I believe we have made great – albeit deliberate – progress toward expanding broadband access to regions of Virginia that desperately need it. I also chair the Health Insurance Reform Commission, which has worked to mitigate the (costly) effects of the Affordable Care Act on Virginians. And, I have been a longtime member of the Board of Workforce Development, where I have focused on efforts to prepare Virginians for successful careers and make our state more attractive to manufacturing.

What project or law are you most proud of?

I worked for several years to create our state’s innovative Workforce Opportunity Grants, a program that places students on a course for certified and/or credentialed education. I’m most proud of this initiative because not only does it benefit the entire state by providing a stronger workforce, it changes the lives of those who take advantage of the program.

How has being a small business owner impacted you as a legislator?

The effects have been tremendous. My experience as a small business owner has guided me through myriad issues related to taxation, regulation, and the size and scope of government. It never ceases to amaze me how many people in government have such limited exposure to the real world of meeting a payroll or building a business.

How has ALEC helped you as a legislator?

The ability to meet with other legislators and learn about things that are working in other states is invaluable. Over the years, we’ve been able to pass many initiatives in Virginia that had their origin at ALEC.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that’s not in your official bio?

I am the proud head of a decidedly mixed household, with two dogs, Max and Jake, and one cat, Henri, who are the best of friends – and very active. [\[ALEC Legislator of the Week interview, 4/30/2018\]](#)

Other Hits

In 2017, Delegate Kathy Byron introduced a bill that would limit broadband options for rural Virginians and aid large, national “legacy carriers” like Comcast and Verizon. Byron is a former

chairwoman of the state Broadband Advisory Council. She received nearly \$70,000 in campaign contributions since 1998 from telecom companies, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. That includes \$36,100 from Verizon alone, her second largest contributor behind the Republican Party of Virginia. According to the Roanoke Broadband council, HB 2108 would de facto private monopolies that lack the incentive to expand high speed quality and affordable internet services to all areas of our region” and “place the city of Roanoke and its regional partners at a significant competitive disadvantage to other localities around the United States” [The Roanoke Times, [1/17/2017](#); HB 2108, Approved by Governor [3/13/2017](#)]

In 2018, Delegate Kathy Byron voted against removing the sales tax on pads, tampons and menstrual cups. Byron voted against HB 24, stating that she supports removing the sales tax; however, she would not consider feminine hygiene products eligible under the tax code. Virginia law states that medical products used to treat or prevent diseases can be tax-exempt. Byron said feminine hygiene products do not fall into that category [WHSV, [1/26/2018](#); HB 24, [2/13/2018](#)]

In 2018, Delegate Kathy Byron voted against a bill that would mandate equal pay for equal work. The Virginia Equal Pay Act, HB 1089, would have prohibited wage discrimination based on gender or minority status. Byron’s vote, along with four of her Republican colleagues, killed the equal pay bill [WHSV, [1/29/2018](#); HB 1089, [2/13/2018](#)]

In 2012, Delegate Kathy Byron sponsored a bill that became law, which forces doctors to perform ultrasounds on their patients prior to abortions, without the option to opt-out. Doctors are required to obtain certification proving they offered their patients ultrasound images or hearing the fetal heartbeat and these certifications along with the images are stored in the patients’ medical records. Victims of rape and incest are not exempted from the law. The invasive law, according to Slate, only gets worse as, “The great majority of abortions occur during the first 12 weeks, that means most women will be forced to have a transvaginal procedure, in which a probe is inserted into the vagina, and then moved around until an ultrasound image is produced.” Women’s consent to ultrasound does not matter and Virginia law considers object sexual penetration a felony separate from rape. In response to critique about the bill’s invasiveness, Byron responded, “If we want to talk about invasiveness, there’s nothing more invasive than the procedure that she is about to have.” [Slate, [2/16/2018](#); HB 462, approved by governor, [3/7/2012](#)]