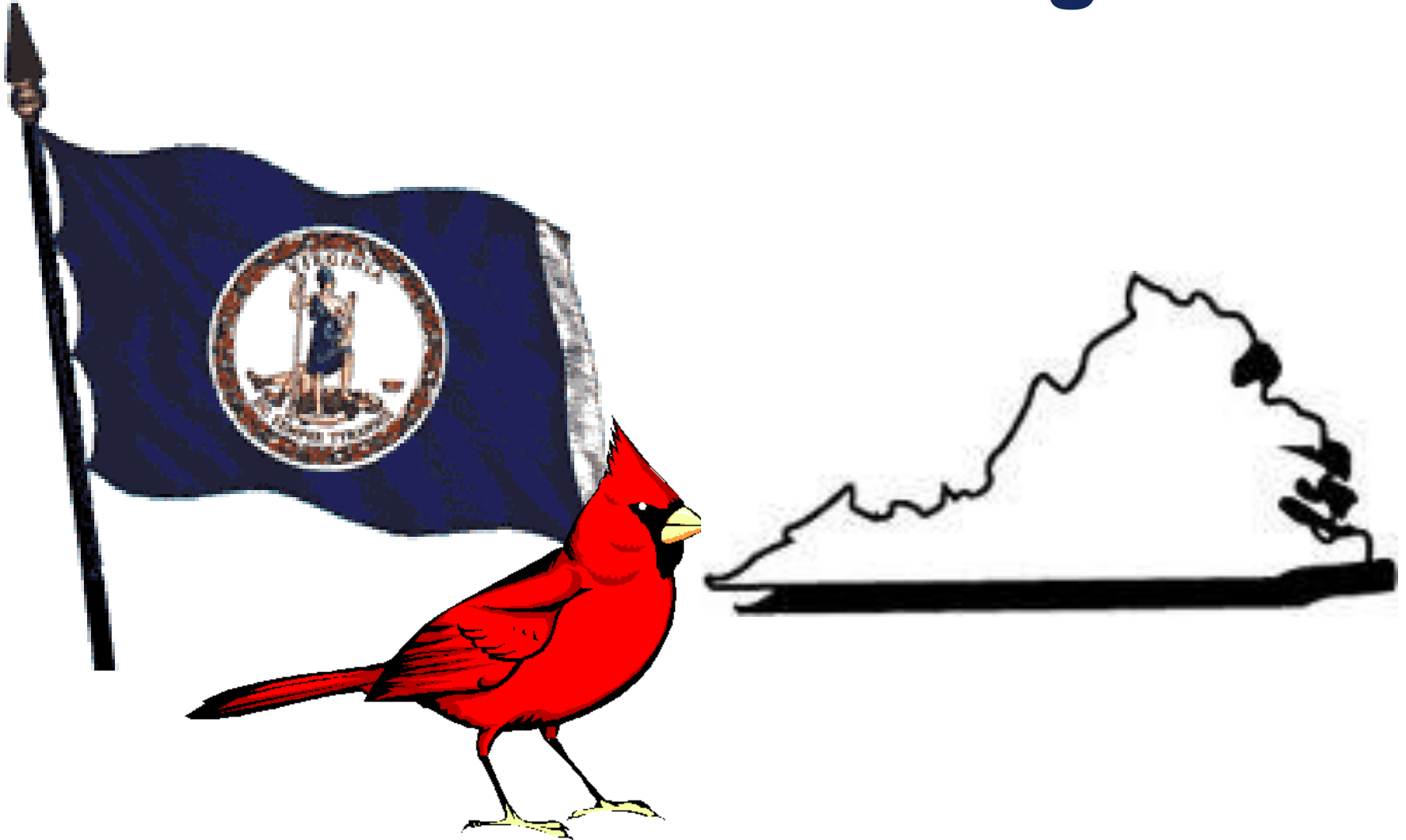


Commonwealth of Virginia



Virginia Recommendations for National Actions

- Work with CMS to support increased person-centered practices, community support, and individualized budgeting
- Work with SAMSHA, RSA, Dept. of Labor/ODEP, etc. to identify what each [of these organizations] are doing to promote best practices for PWD (Persons With Disability)
- Develop promotional/public relations statement that supports involvement in self-advocacy across different groups
- Fund study on how funds attached to SSI (Supplemental Security Income)/SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) impact

Virginia Recommendations for National Actions (continued)

- Annual proclamation of Disability Awareness Month, to include history of disability movement
- PNS (Projects of National Significance) funds to establish “Beyond Tokenism” project nationally (for example, as has been done in Pennsylvania)
- Target (more) funding toward communities of color, in poverty, in rural areas, that are culturally/linguistically marginalized (e.g., immigrants whose first language is not English)

Virginia National Policy Recommendations

- Work with CMS to infuse/combine ADD policies into CMS policies and guidance
- Prior to reauthorization of DD Act:
 - Explore definition of Disability (vs. DD/Developmental Disability) to determine whether focus should be on DD or D
 - Re-evaluate functional limitations and age of onset criteria for eligibility, to promote inclusion of all individuals with disabilities, through formal discussions and public input from self-advocacy groups
 - Overall: **What benefits people with DD, benefits all.**
- Work with SSA (Social Security Administration) and other departments of government (e.g., DOE/Department of Education) to allow PWD to save money/funds but still maintain benefits that they receive.

Virginia National Policy Recommendations

- Work with DOE (Department of Education) to infuse ADD policies for educational guidance, with the goal of starting self-advocacy activities in early elementary school/at a younger age.
- Reauthorization of DD Act to include **self-advocacy** title (arm/branch)

OVERALL THEME FROM VIRGINIA:
AWARENESS!