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**Objective: To build both my resume and experience in a setting that helps me make a contribution to a productive editorial environment.**

**Profile:**

- **Extensive writing experience**
- **Quick learner**
- **Flexible**
- **Punctual**
- **Available for writing, copy-editing or photography**

**Education: Hermitage High School, 2003-2007; Advanced Diploma**  
**Virginia Commonwealth University, 2007- present.**  
**Major: Journalism, print concentration**

**Experience:**

**9/1999-5/2005**

**Richmond Times-Dispatch, 333 East Grace Street**

- **Writing articles for Flair section, initially reviews of children's movies, but later on general arts and entertainment-related columns.**
- **Chosen as one of eight columnists from over eighty applicants.**
- **Two letters to the editor were printed complimenting my writing**

**Reason for leaving: Needed more time for schoolwork**

**11/2003-5/2007**

**Hermitage High School Panthianette**

- Staff writer
- Did yearly wrap-up column all four years
- Also did movie/theater/album reviews, editorials

**1/2009-5/2010**

**Commonwealth Times- VCU campus newspaper- 817 W. Broad St.**

- Wrote opinion pieces, Academy Awards coverage

**12/2008-5/2009**

**INK Magazine- VCU student magazine**

- Wrote humor columns relating to national and local news

**8/2009-present- bagger, Kroger, 901 N. Lombardy St.**

- Bag groceries, bring in carts from parking lot
- Cashier occasionally

**8/2010-12/2010- Intern, Style Weekly, 1313 E. Main St.**

- Fact-checked entertainment pages for coming week's issue
- Wrote two columns over course of internship

**1/2011-present- Style Weekly contributor**

- Wrote mostly "Back Page" editorials
- One such editorial, "The Second Assault", was one of VCU's official selections to compete for a Society of Professional Journalists Hearst Award; this editorial also resulted in people calling the VCU journalism department to thank me for writing it, according to my journalism professor

**1/2012-present- Editorial intern, GayRVA.com**

- Write 3-5 posts per week for website.
- Formats vary from briefs to event coverage to feature stories.

**3/2012-present- Section Editor, GayRVA.com**

- **Copy-edited posts for “News & Views” section, commissioned stories from contributors.**

### **References**

- 1. Rich Griset, founder and former editor, INK Magazine; Style Weekly theater critic; Chesterfield Observer contributing writer; [grisetrh@vcu.edu](mailto:grisetrh@vcu.edu); 804-477-4437**
- 2. Scott Bass, features editor, Style Weekly; [scott.bass@styleweely.com](mailto:scott.bass@styleweely.com); 804-358-0825**
- 3. Bill Oglesby, assistant professor, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Mass Communications; [boglesby@vcu.edu](mailto:boglesby@vcu.edu); 804-379-1889**
- 4. June Nicholson, associate professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Mass Communications; [jonichol@vcu.edu](mailto:jonichol@vcu.edu); 804-827-0251**

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## AltDaily : Creating and celebrating local culture in Norfolk and all of Hampton Roads.

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**RICHMOND – More than 1,000 people turned out at the Capitol on Monday to silently protest a wave of legislation that they claim undermines women’s reproductive rights.**

The demonstration focused largely on two measures: House Bill 1, which would give the legal status of a human being to a fertilized egg, and HB 462, which would require a trans-vaginal ultrasound before undergoing an abortion. Both bills have passed the House of Delegates and are being considered by the Senate Education and Health Committee.



Man up.

“We want the state legislators to know that we are angry, and we will not stand idly by as our rights to privacy and access to health care are eroded; we will not be told we do not know what is best for us, or that access to care should be limited to those who can pay,” said Sarah Okolita, who helped organize the event.

“We will not have medically unnecessary procedures forced upon us. We will not give up our right to plan our families,” said Okolita, a graduate student in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University.

“These are distractions. Virginia needs economic growth and recovery, not repressive, regressive and dangerous control over our bodies.”

Another organizer, Jordan Romeo, a global studies and international social justice major at VCU, said she hoped the rally would send a message to the General Assembly.

“We have been telling people to contact their legislators, to call their legislators, to write emails, to be a presence at the Capitol as much as possible,” Romeo said.

Eileen Davis, a health care provider, said that the wording of HB 1 had potentially dangerous ramifications.

“The law of unintended consequences is all over this bill,” Davis said. “Women who have to take birth control or have a barrier method such as an IUD because they’re on cancer treatment, according to this bill, would be breaking the law.

“This bill says that women who have migraine headaches cannot take birth control pills ... This is a law that was written by people that don’t understand health care, medical care and the medical consequences of it.”



Get up, stand up.

Delegate Bob Marshall, R-Manassas, the sponsor of HB 1, has disputed such comments as fear-mongering. The bill states that “Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as affecting lawful assisted conception.”

The demonstration began at 11 a.m. as participants silently lined the walkways on the Capitol grounds and linked arms.

Around 12:30 p.m., the protesters dispersed before reassembling at the Bell Tower for a rally. The rally’s featured speakers included various legislators, as well as activists such as Ramey Connelly of the Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project and Victoria Bragunier of the Richmond chapter of the National Organization for Women.

“Virginia is better than this,” Delegate Alfonso Lopez, D-Arlington, told the crowd. “We represent something better. We have for 400 years. Let’s not go backwards. This is not what Virginia is.”

Participants and organizers said they were pleased with the turnout for the demonstration, particularly after Sunday’s snow.

“We were talking with the Capitol Police here,” said Vicki Yeroian, president of VCU Young Democrats and an advocate intern with Planned Parenthood. “And one of them was kind enough to let us know that in the 27 years that they’ve been working here, they have never seen a demonstration as big as the one that we’ve had today.”

Romeo said the size of the crowd reflected how strongly people feel about the issues.

“I think the turnout has been really wonderful,” she said. “I think the fact that the legislation is so absurd and so ridiculous [means] people are angry, which I think is a really good power to make people get involved.”

**More:**

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**[The Conservative Values Crusade Guiding the '12 Virginia General Assembly: An Overview](#)**

**[Op-ed: Virginia Laws Treat Women Unfairly, and It's Getting Worse](#)**

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## Gay Richmond News, Entertainment, Nightlife & LGBT Community Guide :: GayRVA

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An estimated 75 people turned out for the LGBT rights group's annual Lobby Day. See photos from the evening legislative reception and more.

**Read More:** [Adam Ebbin](#), [Equality Virginia](#), [General Assembly](#), [Joe Morrissey](#), [Lobby Day](#), [Marriage Equality](#), [Mothers & Others](#), [virginia](#)



*Equality Virginia's executive director James Parrish (center) recognizes lawmakers at an evening reception on Tuesday.*

An estimated 75 people turned out for LGBT rights group [Equality Virginia's](#) annual Lobby Day Tuesday. The morning portion of the event began with members lobbying lawmakers from the Virginia General Assembly on LGBT-related legislation.

The lobbying was followed by a series of workshops on various topics and a legislative reception in the early evening.

Roland Winston articulated some of the event's top lobbying priorities. "Most of what we're addressing is equality in employment," said Winston, the executive director of LGBT rights group Mothers and Others. "We [also] don't want discrimination in adoption... there are two bills that have

been submitted to ensure that religious institutions do not ever have to place children with gay people, and we're opposed to those." Winston said Equality Virginia was also there to lobby for Sen. Adam Ebbin's bill banning adoption discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

[Read more about EV's legislative goals for this year's General Assembly session.](#)

Jasper Hendricks, the openly gay chair of the Appomattox Democratic Committee, said that some of the legislators he lobbied seemed surprised to meet him. "State Senator [Tom] Garrett told me that, by looking at me and by talking to me, [he] didn't get that I was gay," said Hendricks. "And that's why it's important to have different voices on the issues, because it helps to put the biases aside."

Rebecca Voskeritchian, who has spina bifida, said that her disability made her want to lobby against what she called "double discrimination". "Having the [legislation forbidding] workplace discrimination go through would be important to me," said Voskeritchian, a Master's student at Virginia Commonwealth University, "because then that's one less [type of] discrimination that I would have to deal with."

### **See photos from EV's Legislative Reception Below**

One Virginia mother said she had a personal stake in the struggle for LGBT rights. The mother, who asked that her name not be used, said she was there on behalf of her transgender child. "I came today for the first time to lobby," she said. "It's a great experience. I'm not very political, I guess...I just kind of talked from my mother's perspective of a young transgender child."

[Read more about one Richmond mother's journey with her transgender child here.](#)

Rev. Robin Gorsline said that while he supported the aforementioned legislation, he was also lobbying on behalf of HB115, the "Solemnization of Marriage Act". "[HB115] is a bill to allow religious leaders and others in congregations to marry people even if the marriage is not recognized legally by the commonwealth," said Gorsline, the president of People of Faith for Equality in Virginia. Rev. Gorsline, who later moderated a workshop on the subject of HB115, said that the current law infringed upon freedom of religion. "Currently we have a law that says if I as a pastor, or a priest or a rabbi stands up and says 'I marry you' to two women or two men, it is not a valid marriage, and I'm actually breaking the law."

Other workshop topics included working towards safer schools for LGBT youth and messaging strategies for advancing LGBTQ rights. In the latter session, Equality Virginia Executive Director James Parrish explained proper terminology pertaining to gay rights activism. Examples included

using terminology like “sexual orientation” rather than “sexual preference” and simply “marriage” instead of “gay marriage”. “We all want the same thing,” Parrish explained. “When two older people want to get married, we don’t call it ‘elder marriage’...and there’s no such thing as ‘gay marriage’. We just want access to marriage.”

This was followed by a reception with state legislators in the Library of Virginia lobby. Legislators in attendance included Del Joe Morrissey, Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. David Toscano.

“Equality Virginia cannot be successful at all if we don’t have people like [the attendees] involved,” Parrish said. “I can go down there every day and see every delegate, but I only vote for two of them, so that’s the only two who are going to listen to me....it does take everyone to make this happen.”

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[altdaily.com](http://altdaily.com)

## AltDaily : Creating and celebrating local culture in Norfolk and all of Hampton Roads.

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**RICHMOND – Local jails and regional prisons in Virginia can continue to shackle female inmates during childbirth – a practice that Delegate Patrick Hope, D-Arlington, says is appalling.**

Hope sponsored a bill this legislative session to prohibit the shackling of women prisoners while in labor or giving birth. However, the bill is dead for this session after failing to make it out of a subcommittee last week.

But Hope isn't giving up on getting correctional facilities to stop the practice.

"Having been the father of three girls, I couldn't understand why they felt the need to do that," he said.



Legal even during birth.

"And as I dug into the policies and what motivated the prisons and the local and regional jails to do this, [I found that] they really didn't have a policy; they just shackled everyone ... I thought there ought to be at least some law, something codified, that says they should use the least restrictive restraints ... and use their discretion to make sure that safety's not at risk."

Katherine Greenier of the Virginia ACLU said the health risks posed by shackled delivery are well documented.

"Pregnancy can create problems with balance that are exacerbated by shackling," said Greenier, whose Patricia M.

Arnold Women's Rights Project lobbied extensively for House Bill 836 before its demise.

"Leg and wrist restraints increase the likelihood that a pregnant woman could trip, and they compromise her ability to brace against a fall, risking miscarriage and injury."

Ramey Connelly said she finds the practice abhorrent regardless of the health risks.

“I believe that shackling women during labor is a violation of the right to be free from inhuman or degrading treatment, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” said Connelly, a women’s rights activist in Richmond.

“The process of birth is a natural one, and women are physiologically inclined to move during labor. There is extensive documentation that, given the freedom to do so, women will move into birthing positions which are most conducive to a safe, healthy labor and childbirth.”

The Virginia ACLU was joined in lobbying for the bill by several women’s rights and prison reform groups. The ACLU, which is known for supporting liberal causes, also found an unlikely ally: the Family Foundation of Virginia, which ordinarily supports conservative and religious causes.

Hope said it was natural for his bill to attract support from groups with different political views.

“If a woman wants to have a pregnancy, and she wants it to be carried out, then we need to make sure that it’s carried out in a safe and healthy manner. That’s why [pro-choice groups] are at the table,” Hope said.

“Virginia Family Foundation’s at the table for similar reasons. They see the pregnancy as a life, and we need to make sure that that pregnancy is protected so it is safe, and it is healthy, and everyone’s happy.”

HB 836 had been assigned to the House Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee. On Feb. 9, a subcommittee of that panel tabled the bill. As a result, the full House of Delegates did not have an opportunity to act on the measure. Any bill that did not clear its house of origin by Tuesday was declared dead for the session.

Hope said he plans to reintroduce the issue next session. In the meantime, he said, he is exploring non-legislative ways of achieving the same goal.

“The legislation that I introduced is already the procedure in the [state] prison system,” Hope said. “However, at the Board of Corrections level, in the regional jails ... that’s not policy yet.”

“They put out a notice for rulemaking in January, and I suspect that that will be played out over the next 12 to 18 months. When the regulatory process plays out, I’m going to be watching that process closely to make sure that there are not so many holes in [shackling regulations] that this doesn’t become like Swiss cheese.”

Connelly said it was encouraging to hear the issue raised in the first place.

“It is always beneficial to keep the conversation going. That is one of the many tragedies of the ‘correctional’ system – that the people within them are locked away and essentially forgotten,” she said.

“We cannot let these conversations die, because when they do, the people who are suffering these monumental injustices fade away into the background.”

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More about House Bill 836

Here is the full text of the bill:

“No state, regional, local, or juvenile correctional facility shall use restraints on any prisoner who is pregnant during labor, transport to a medical facility, delivery, or postpartum recovery unless the warden, superintendent, or jailor finds there is a compelling reason to believe that the prisoner poses serious harm to herself or others, is a flight risk, or cannot be reasonably restrained by other means. Such facility shall use the least restrictive restraints necessary on any inmate in the second or third trimester of pregnancy.”

*To comment on the legislation, visit [the Richmond Sunlight website](#).*

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