

# KRISTEN S. SMITH

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## EXPERIENCE

8/1/2009-TO 5/1/2011                      Captain's Log                      Newport News, VA  
**COPY EDITOR**

- Copy edited staff stories
- Wrote news stories

1/16/2013 TO 5/1/2013                      Capital News Service                      Richmond, VA

### REPORTER

- Producing weekly articles for various news publications across Virginia
- Reported on the Virginia General Assembly

1/16/ 2013 TO 5/1/2013                      Hanover Habitat for Humanity                      *Mechanicsville, VA*

### SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN

- Updating across social media platforms for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- Researching and targeting audience to reach on social media websites
- Creating news releases for major events
- Training staff on how to use Twitter and Facebook

## EDUCATION

August 2009- April 2011                      Christopher Newport University                      Newport News, VA

August 2009- May 2013                      Virginia Commonwealth University  
Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications                      Richmond, VA

## SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- I am a writer with experience producing hard and soft news stories across platforms
- I have mastered Associated Press style
- Strong interviewing and research skills
- Experienced with social media, including Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn
- Knowledgeable in the Adobe Suite programs
- Knowledgeable in production of slideshows using Audacity and Soundslides Plus
- Excelled in law and ethics courses
- Photography and layout skills
- Experienced in computer assisted reporting

## REFERENCES

Available upon request

# The Southwest Times

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## Senate OKs mammogram notification bill

By KRISTEN SMITH

Capital News Service

RICHMOND – The Senate Monday unanimously joined the House in passing a bill that requires women to be notified of dense breast tissue in mammogram results.

Senators voted 40-0 for House Bill 1778, which had been approved 98-0 by the House on Jan. 25. The legislation now goes to Gov. Bob McDonnell.

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, D-Springfield, introduced HB 1778, which “clarifies the conditions under which a mammography services provider must notify a patient of dense breast tissue.”

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5 Apr 2013
- ▶ Celtbillies performing at Draper Mercantile  
5 Apr 2013
- ▶ Friends of Library holding annual meeting April 16  
5 Apr 2013
- ▶ Child killed in ATV wreck in Wise

This bill also changes the current wording of the mammogram notification letter that is provided to a patient.

“I think this additional language is a common-sense step in the right direction for women’s health,” Filler-Corn said.

Under HB 1778, doctors interpreting a mammogram X-ray will have to notify the patient if they find that she has heterogeneously dense or extremely dense breast tissue. Physicians would make such a determination based on nationally recognized guidelines, including the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System of the American College of Radiology.

Dense breast tissue is not uncommon in women. It can make it more difficult to find cancerous cells on a standard mammogram.

“Many of the procedures that women will go on to have after consultation and notification from the mammogram about the dense breast tissue can be life-saving,” Filler-Corn said.

In 2012, the General Assembly passed Virginia’s first “breast density inform” law.

Besides adjusting the law this year, legislators are considering a resolution about breast cancer.

House Joint Resolution 762, sponsored by Delegate Delores McQuinn, D-Richmond, requests local health departments “establish a breast cancer awareness and prevention protocol to increase early detection of breast cancer, successful treatment outcomes, and survival rates.”

The House unanimously approved the resolution last week. It is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

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5 Apr 2013

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# Bills would boost Teach for America

 RICHMOND BIZSENSE  FEBRUARY 8, 2013  0

By Kristen Smith  
Capital News Service

Legislation that would grant a provisional state teaching license to Teach for America participants is moving toward passage in the Virginia General Assembly.



Both the House of Delegates and Senate have unanimously approved separate bills to create such a license to help the program, which recruits college students to teach in low-income areas across the country.

House Bill 2084 recently was passed by the House and has been assigned to the Senate Committee for Education and Health. The bill, proposed by Del. M. Kirkland Cox (R-Colonial Heights), is in line with education initiatives advocated by Gov. Bob McDonnell (R).

Since 1990, Teach for America, a New York City-based nonprofit group, has recruited more than 33,000 recent college graduates throughout the country to work in low-income areas. Virginia does not have a Teach for America program, but McDonnell said he wants one as part of his education agenda.

Cox, a retired high school government teacher and the majority leader in the House of Delegates, recalled the struggles of starting his teaching career in a hard-to-staff school. He said bright, young, energetic teachers from Teach for America can transform classrooms and close the achievement gaps among students in poverty-stricken areas.

“Teach for America recruits are often in the top 10 percent of their college classes or hold student leadership positions,” Cox said. He noted that Teach for America participants undergo intense training.

HB 2084 would create a two-year provisional license in Virginia for Teach for America participants. It also would allow the Virginia Board of Education to extend that license for an additional year if the participant has met certain criteria. They include satisfactory scores on teachers’ assessments and satisfactory evaluations at the end of the school year.

Sen. Frank M. Ruff Jr. (R-Clarksville) has filed identical legislation in his chamber.

Senate Bill 1175 was approved by the Senate last week and referred to the House Education Committee. On Wednesday, that committee approved the bill, 21-0. It now goes to the full House for a vote.

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*About the author:* **Richmond BizSense**

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# Bills would let schools start before Labor Day

By Staff/Contributed Reports

Jan. 18, 2013



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By **Kristen Smith**

*Capital News Service*

RICHMOND – Lawmakers from across Virginia are pushing a half-dozen bills this legislative session to let public schools start classes before Labor Day.

Delegate Kaye Kory, D-Falls Church, is among legislators sponsoring bills to repeal Virginia’s “King’s Dominion law,” which prevents local schools from opening before Labor Day unless they get special permission from the state.

Kory’s proposal, House Bill 1491, “makes local school boards responsible for setting the school calendar and determining the opening day of the school year.” Currently, school boards can start classes before Labor Day only if they show “good cause” (such as a history of snow-related school closings) and get a waiver from the Virginia Department of Education.

Kory, who has been a PTA leader in Northern Virginia and a member of the Fairfax County School Board, said schools should have the power to set their academic calendars.

“There are a lot of options and program decisions that school systems cannot take advantage of if they are forced to wait until after Labor Day to start their school year,” she said.

Schools must wait because of a law passed by the General Assembly in 1986. Nicknamed the “King’s Dominion law,” after the theme park in Hanover County, it was intended to help Virginia’s tourism industry.

Critics say the “King’s Dominion law” puts Virginia students at a disadvantage. For example, they might not have as much class time as students in other states to prepare for college entrance exams and other standardized tests.

There have been repeated attempts to repeal the current restrictions and give school boards the option of holding classes before Labor Day. Last year, the General Assembly considered 13 bills to empower school divisions to choose their own opening dates – an idea backed by Gov. Bob McDonnell. However, none of the bills passed.

Kory hopes the outcome will be different this year.

HB 1491 would not affect school division budgets because it would not change the number of class days or the length of the school day.

Kory says it’s unfair for the state to dictate how local school boards must set their school calendars.

“In the state Constitution, school boards are described as the elected body that is responsible for all aspects of the K-12 public school system. It’s a little inconsistent for the state to decide that one of the few powers that the state has chosen to take away from the locally elected school boards is when you can start school,” Kory said.

Kory is sponsoring several other education-related bills. They include HB 1894, which would forbid schools from starting instruction and other academic activities before 8 a.m.

*[Capital News Service](#) is a student news-gathering program sponsored by the School of Mass Communications at Virginia Commonwealth University.*