

Virginia PTA

Child Advocate of the Year

2022-2023



Congressman Bobby Scott

Legislator Child Advocate of the Year

Congressman Bobby Scott has represented Virginia's third congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1993. Prior to his service in Congress, he served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1978 to 1983 and in the Virginia Senate from 1983 to 1993. Congressman Scott serves as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce—his fifth term as the Committee's Democratic leader. Congressman Scott has advanced legislation to renovate aging school infrastructure, reduce child hunger through improvements to the school meal program, delivered the single largest investment to K-12 schools in U.S. history through the American Rescue Plan, and championed the Every Student Succeeds Act. Congressman Scott's advocacy has improved student success, health and safety.



Debbie Long

Individual Child Advocate of the Year

Debbie Long is the immediate past President of the Henrico County Council of PTAs and member of the Virginia PTA Advocacy Committee for the past four years. Through a focus on parent educational forums and clear communication she has created opportunities for parents to provide feedback on school safety, mental health, and school funding. This year's forums discussed community and family-focused approaches to reduce bullying and school violence, and improving mental health supports. During the pandemic Debbie ensured parents had clear information about Return to School plans and hosted programs to help parents balance increased screen time, and navigate their children's increased anxiety. Debbie's consistent outreach and leadership has empowered and strengthened parent voice in Henrico.



Chesterfield County Council PTA

Council Child Advocate of the Year

Chesterfield County Council of PTAs empowered parents to advocate for increased county-level school funding through robust communication and outreach. Chesterfield County Council PTA passed resolutions regarding the teacher shortage, compensation, school facilities, and the impact of persistent underfunding. Using public comment, media engagement, meeting with local officials, an email campaign with outreach templates, a petition, and a rally called the 'Rally for Kids and \$180 Million Dollar Bake Sale', Chesterfield County Council PTA successfully raised awareness in an impactful way. Chesterfield County Council PTA also developed an advocacy grant program to support local unit advocacy work, and hosted a forum to provide families with information about drug access and county-level addiction and recovery programs.

