



October 18, 2013

The Honorable Emmett Hanger  
Chairman  
Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
201 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Commission Members:

I write in support of Medicaid expansion in Virginia. I am the CEO of Reston Hospital Center and the lead executive of HCA Northern Virginia, which is part of the HCA Virginia Health System. Our facilities serve residents in the Northern Virginia and we employ approximately 1200 people in the local community.

We served more than 8,000 Medicaid participants and provided approximately \$45 million in charity and uncompensated care in 2012. Many of the patients we treat would benefit from increased access to health care and the expansion of the Medicaid program in Virginia is one way to accomplish that goal. :

We support reform of the current Medicaid program. Significant reforms to the current Medicaid program are already underway and there is no reason to wait until fully implemented to start the implementation of an expanded Medicaid program.

Implementing the Medicaid expansion now will maximize federal dollars and savings available to Virginia for use in the expanded program. Approximately \$26 billion in taxes paid by Virginians will flow to the federal government under the revenue features of the Affordable Care Act. Expansion of Medicaid would allow Virginia to recoup some of the money Virginia taxpayers are sending to federal government.

Hospitals are continuing to experience funding cuts in other federal programs under the ACA. Not expanding Medicaid will further exacerbate those cuts and strain the delivery of existing services. If the federal government fails to live up to its financial commitment, the state can withdraw from the expanded program in future years.

I urge the Commission to allow the Medicaid program to expand while the state implements significant reforms to the current Medicaid system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Deardorff", written in a cursive style.

John Deardorff  
CEO, Reston Hospital Center

Lead executive, HCA Virginia Health System's Northern Virginia Market