



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

[REDACTED]

Wed, Oct 9, 2013 at 10:57 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Aaron

Last Name - Moyer

Organization Name -

Comment -



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October 9, 2013

Dear Senator Hanger,

Since you are my representative in the VA Senate, I am specifically addressing this letter to you, although I trust you will share it with the rest of your colleagues on the MIRC. While I know you have been a strong proponent of Medicaid expansion in VA, I cannot see how logic can support such a position. Following are what I feel are irrefutable facts that should lead anyone to conclude that Medicaid expansion in VA is bad – both for Medicaid patients and VA taxpayers.

1. A 2012 report by The Heritage Foundation showed that Medicaid patients have worse health outcomes. See the report here (with cited references):
[REDACTED]
2. A UVA paper, "Primary Payer Status Affects Mortality For Major Surgical Operations," presented to the American Surgical Association in 2010, found that the **in-hospital mortality rate for Medicaid recipients who underwent surgeries was 13 percent higher than those patients who had no insurance at all**; and their length of stay and total cost was higher. See [REDACTED].
3. According to a 2012 Kaiser Family Foundation report
[REDACTED], Virginia Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care will increase over 25% through participation in the ACA!
4. According to a VA govt. document ([REDACTED]), VA Medicaid covered 556,470 patients in 2012. Thus, adding 400K new patients means a 72% increase in program participation in a single year! **This immediate increase will overwhelm the current VA government infrastructure involved with processing claims**, thus leading to worse care for all Medicaid patients!
5. In an August 13, 2013 publication, the State Budget Solutions organization made its own compelling argument against the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia. See
[REDACTED].
6. You and other lawmakers have repeatedly claimed that "Virginia can't afford not to take the 'free money' being offered by the federal government". Really?!! The last time I checked, the citizens of Virginia pay federal income taxes; so how can you consider this "free money"?! Also, when you consider that the federal government has ~\$17T in debt and is currently shut down over budget issues, any sane person would have to conclude that any money they provide to the states is soon going to be reduced or eliminated. At that point, VA taxpayers will have to pick up more or all of the increased Medicaid costs!!

Senator Hanger, I could list many more verifiable facts and logical arguments – but I think those listed above should suffice to convince you and your colleagues that expansion of Medicaid in VA is a bad idea! While it will be financially bad for VA taxpayers, more importantly – **it will be bad for the new and existing Medicaid patients**!

Respectfully,
Aaron Moyer
Ruckersville, VA