



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Fri, Sep 20, 2013 at 5:09 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Amanda

Last Name - Long

Organization Name - NAMI Virginia

Comment -



MIRC Commission.pdf

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Dear MIRC Commission,

I am writing to urge the commission to expand Medicaid in Virginia. Under Virginia's current strict eligibility, thousands of low-income adults who live with mental illness do not qualify for Medicaid. Under Medicaid expansion individuals who make \$15,000 and families of four who make \$31,000 a year would qualify, which is a large portion of the population. I strongly support Medicaid expansion because it will mean that thousands of adults with mental health disorders will have the opportunity to live fulfilling and meaningful lives. Making these vital healthcare services accessible to Americans is vital in our effort to combat serious health issues later on down the road. This preventative strategy will most surely save the government more money in the long run, as people who get the help they need early, are less likely to encounter difficulties later on in life. Virginia already spends millions of dollars through the state General Fund to provide health care for people who are uninsured. Medicaid expansion would be a more cost-effective way of providing coverage. Lack of treatment and services often escalates into crisis, which is more expensive for the health care system, the person and family, and the community. The need for expansion is clear, as approximately one in six currently uninsured adults with incomes below 133 percent of poverty has a severe mental disorder. NAMI is committed to eradicate the stigma against mental illness, and expanding Medicaid coverage would be a valuable first step in this endeavor. Everyone deserves a chance to live a healthy, happy and productive life. In a country where anything is supposed to be possible, please consider doing your part in allowing for this to dream to become a reality.

Sincerely,

Amanda Long, MSW

NAMI Virginia (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

