



Virginia MIRC &lt;vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov&gt;

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**New MIRC Comment**1 message

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Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

ue, Oct 15, 2013 at 11:49 AM

**First Name** - Anne**Last Name** - Scupholme**Organization Name** - Buck Mountain Episcopal Church

**Comment** - At the present time millions of dollars are spent in medical emergency rooms because Virginians cannot afford either the insurance premiums, or the co-payments, deductibles and encounter fees that are routinely required to access timely primary health care facilities. The Medicaid program must be expanded to provide coverage, not only for those who exist below the so-called poverty line but also to provide basic health services, to reduce the cost of emergency care to the state, for many who currently live above the poverty line but cannot afford insurance premiums. Expanding the state Medicaid program will save Virginia tax billions of dollars in the higher premiums that we must pay to cover the cost of the uninsured. A little more spent now will improve the health of Virginians while reducing long term costs.