



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

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[REDACTED] Tue , Oct 8, 2013 at 10:47 PM  
Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Barry

**Last Name** - Epstein

**Organization Name** -

**Comment** -



**Virginia Medicaid 2013.pdf**  
127K

October 9, 2013

Dear Chairman Hanger and Members of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the recent work of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission (MIRC). I am an active, voting citizen of Alexandria, VA.

I strongly support the compromise language of the General Assembly, agreed upon by the Governor, to reform Medicaid and then to expand it. I do so primarily because I believe that healthcare is an essential right of all and it is an ethical responsibility of our citizens, acting through our government, to provide for that right. I know that requiring citizens to use band aid approaches like emergency rooms for healthcare is bad for the patient, for the healthcare system, and for society.

I understand that with full Medicaid coverage, 400,000 uninsured individuals will receive access to quality coverage they so desperately need. Many are working Virginians who simply don't make enough to buy coverage.

With recent cuts to Medicare payments and Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion is needed to fill the gaps for providers and our safety net.

It is not smart and it is not right policy that Virginia taxpayers are paying for other states to take advantage of the federal money to expand Medicaid. Virginia is sending about \$2 billion a year to Washington and receiving nothing in return. If we expand Medicaid, Virginia will see \$2.6 billion in 2015 alone returned to the state, where it belongs.

Also, Medicaid expansion will create an estimated 30,000 new jobs in healthcare and related fields—jobs that are critically need in our state.

I strongly urge you to do the right thing and for Virginian families and take action to expand Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Barry Epstein  
Alexandria, VA