



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

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**support of Medicaid expansion**

1 message

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**Cyrus, Betty** [REDACTED] Wed,  
To: "vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov" <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Oct 9, 2013 at 10:58 AM

Oct. 9, 2013

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

I thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the recent work of this Commission.

I am a sonographer (ultrasound tech) at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va. I have worked in this capacity for almost 27 years and am grateful for the opportunity to serve this patient base. That is why I am compelled to encourage you to expand Medicaid in Va. I know firsthand just how important medical care is and just how much it is needed...and what a hardship medical care can be for a family. I personally have watched young parents stand in tears as they call their parents or anyone else they can think of to come up with the money to self-pay for an exam ordered on their baby but they do not have the \$500 for the ultrasound-and to add insult to injury, the exams don't cost that much for an insurance company but because the individual doesn't have the negotiating power, those who self-pay always pay a ridiculously high charge. No one should ever have to deny their child a possibly life-saving exam because they can't afford it. That is why this issue is so very important to me.

Currently there are over 400,000 uninsured individuals in the state that desperately need access to medical care. Most of these people are hard working employed individuals who just don't make enough to afford coverage...even at reduced rates. Also, with the recent cuts to DSH payments, my area (pediatrics) will really be hurting because so many of our little patients are Medicaid...and that just makes it harder for us to offer the services we do for these patients. If hospitals do not receive enough money to cover the costs of providing services, they will be forced to either curtail services or charge the paying customers more...the whole reason for the ACA in the first place.

The ACA is the law of the land and is enacted. Many states are expanding Medicaid and helping their own citizens while we refuse to help fellow Virginians even though we are paying for those other states citizens. If we accept the expansion, we will receive approximately \$2.6 billion in 2015 alone as well as boosting the economy by adding 30,000 new jobs.

I urge you to take action to expand Medicaid and stand up for the people of Virginia...we deserve good medical care too!

Sincerely,

Betty L Cyrus, RDMS