



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Fri, Oct 4, 2013 at 8:17 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Bradley

**Last Name** - Purcell

**Organization Name** -

**Comment** -



Medicaid Expansion 2013.docx

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James Bradley Purcell  
Henrico, VA

October 4, 2013

Re: Medicaid Expansion through the Affordable Care Act

To the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission:

Thank you for your work on behalf of Virginia and its Medicaid program, and for this opportunity to submit comments on the work of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission (MIRC).

I am a self-employed consultant in Henrico County. I understand the need for affordable insurance. Through my S-corporation, I pay more than \$1,200.00 monthly for high-deductible insurance coverage for my family of three.

**I support the expansion of Medicaid through the ACA.** Even though this expansion will not better my own access to insurance coverage, it is vitally important because it will provide critical funding necessary for Virginia's increasingly stressed healthcare system, even as it protects approximately 400,000 Virginians with insurance coverage they desperately need.

A majority of these individuals are hard working employed Virginians who don't make enough to buy coverage. Someone I know in Southwest VA, has held a succession of jobs since the Downturn began, only to lose each one because a series of health complaints (an infected leg, etc.) make him miss work, costing him the job before the employer's health insurance starts. With access to Medicaid, his health between jobs would be better, and he would not miss work.

Most important, Virginia's overall healthcare network simply must have these Medicaid funds in order to have any chance to build healthcare capacity sufficient for the retiring Baby Boom. Medicaid expansion is needed to fill the gaps for providers and our safety net.

If we expand *Medicaid*, Virginia will see \$2.6 billion in 2015 alone returned to the where it belongs. In addition, Medicaid expansion will boost the economy by creating an estimated 30,000 new jobs.

*Please listen to Virginia's hospitals. Without these new Medicaid funds, hospitals will close all over Virginia (as is happening now in Lee County). As Virginia communities sicken and Virginians die without this coverage, especially in rural communities, it will be the fault of some members of this committee and the legislature. Are you ready to bear that responsibility?*

**Please accept the Medicaid expansion provided in the Affordable Care Act.** Future generations of Virginians will give thanks for your foresight.

Yours truly,

J. Bradley Purcell