



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

Tue, Oct 8, 2013 at 7:41 PM

**First Name** - Brenda**Last Name** - Levy**Organization Name** -

**Comment** - Medicaid needs reform, not expansion. Expansion seems compassionate at first glance, but growing numbers of doctors refuse to accept new Medicaid patients due in part to low reimbursement. The Medicaid program is already struggling to meet its core obligations to low-income children, disabled people, pregnant women and seniors. Adding more people will only exacerbate Medicaid's underlying problems. Medicaid is supposed to be a safety-net program. Why encourage middle-class families to go on a welfare program? We're much better off taking care of each other at the local and state level. We need to review eligibility levels, scale back eligibility where possible and restore the program's focus on its core constituents in order for it to function more effectively. The federal government is vastly in debt. If Virginia becomes more dependent on federal dollars, we're asking for trouble. The State of Virginia handles money far better than the federal government. We can develop our own program here, and do it much better than the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. The federal government is a poor way to go about charity. When power is centralized in the government, ordinary people lose power over their own lives and tend to adopt the view that the government is responsible for their wellbeing rather than themselves. Let's take care of each other here in Virginia rather than invite in more federal bureaucracy.