



## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Sun, Oct 13, 2013 at 12:15  
PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Chris

**Last Name** - Spanos

**Organization Name** -

**Comment** - Fiscally Responsible Medicaid expansion is fiscally responsible in order to keep tax dollars in Virginia, to avoid additional taxes and fees, and to preserve our health care system. However, it is equally -- if not more -- important to assure access to needed care for many uninsured Virginians and preserve Virginia's health care safety net. Please support Medicaid expansion with system reforms that are now being put in place. These are essential services for Virginia and its citizens. **Child Day Care Providers** Many child care providers, who average less than \$20,000 income per year, work in settings that do not provide insurance. Expanding Medicaid will help them access the medical care they need to stay healthy enough to care for Virginia's children. **Persons with Mental Disabilities** I personally know many individuals living with mental health disorders who are currently uninsured and will be able to gain access to mental health care. During the past year alone, six in ten adults experiencing serious mental illness went without mental health care, in large part due to having no insurance. Medicaid expansion would be a more cost-effective way of providing coverage. **Those without Health Insurance** Many low-income parents of children do not have health insurance. Indeed, 25% of those who would be eligible for health insurance with Medicaid expansion are parents of children under the age of 18. Research shows that when parents have health insurance, they are more likely to enroll their children in health insurance and take them to the doctor. This keeps kids out of the emergency room when they get sick and is smarter spending of our health care dollars. **As a person of faith** As a member of a congregation that supports local homeless shelters, daycare center, food pantry, and meals programs, I know that vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness would benefit from expansion of Medicaid. Access to preventive care means improvement in quality of life, ability to work, and financial and housing stability.