



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

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**New MIRC Comment**

1 message

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n, Oct 14, 2013 at 2:04 PM

**First Name** - Dawn**Last Name** - Kinard**Organization Name** - N/A

**Comment** - It is imperative that Medicaid be expanded, especially to cover vulnerable children. If the debate centers primarily around affordability (rather than a lack of care and concern for families) then, I suggest that Virginia can not afford to fail in making health care available to this population that is presently uncovered. To be convinced of this need, all I have to do is look up and down the street, and, across the backyard. At least 3 families are caring for specialneeds children that are not their own. Several other families have involuntarily unemployed members and children with health issues. My personal value system places children first. I firmly believe that some of the cost of Medicaid expansion should be offset by dealing with long-term care differently. First, the loophole that allows wealthy people to transfer assets and/or place them in trust to qualify for Medicaid needs to be closed. Secondly, make provisions for assisted-suicide. Our society can't continue to support life extension at all costs. When bodies and minds fail, and seniors like me want to opt out of life, give us that option. More elderly people are more fearful of life than death. Early native Americans often had to leave the elderly and infirm behind for the survival of the tribe. If the United States can no longer and/or is unwilling to support all vulnerable populations, then clearly, children must come first. Until there are enough decent paying jobs for everyone, we can't expect that every family can become self-sufficient. On the other hand, it is necessary to provide tools and resources to enable success in the workplace, and, the resources to detect and penalize fraud and abuse. I worked in public welfare for 30 years so I am personally knowledgeable about the issues.