



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Sep 12, 2013 at 2:53 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Deborah

Last Name - Clayton

Organization Name -

Comment - I would urge you to allow the expansion of Medicaid. It is beyond me what people do who have chronic conditions but are not eligible for Social Security Disability or the Affordable Care Act (due to not meeting the income level). My brother has 3 doctors who have indicated that he cannot work (GP, psychologist and UVA team). He is scheduled to have a cancerous tumor removed from his liver and he will still be up for another procedure on his liver to re-route blood vessels. Just 1 medication for the latter is \$1600/month without insurance. He has been selling what little he has to pay for COBRA (586/month) and has just about reached the end of what he can put towards COBRA. I am retired and 586/month is not something I can do beyond a month or 2 and I am already in month 2 of trying to help. My brother has applied for Social Security Disability but that may take who knows how long. He is putting in applications for indigent care with the hospitals but who knows if they will do anything towards his medical bills. There has to be some support for individuals who cannot work do to illness but who have not yet been declared "disabled." The strain on my brother and on me is overwhelming at times. Medicaid has a re-determination process that occurs at least once a year. Supporting someone's critical health needs between the loss of insurance and getting disability should be considered. You can always require a six month wait between the time a person is eligible for COBRA and Medicaid thereby ensuring that people don't just jump from an employer's insurance to Medicaid. At least people would have hope that they won't die. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.