



October 1, 2013

Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission  
201 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
General Assembly Building  
Richmond, VA 23219

**RE: Expansion of Medicaid Coverage for Qualifying Virginians**

Dear Commission Members:

Dickenson Community Hospital is located in coalfields of Southwest Virginia where our county is and has for many years, been dependent on natural resources for jobs and revenue. Dickenson County has also had the unfortunate distinction of being among the localities with the highest unemployment rates in the Commonwealth for a number of years. Along with chronic unemployment comes a disproportionate number of poor and uninsured patients – all of which are currently being treated at DCH.

DCH is the only hospital in the county and therefore represents a critical access point for a large number of our residents. Because our current payor mix from Medicaid, Medicare and Self-Pay represents approximately 73% of our overall revenue, I cannot encourage you strongly enough to recommend that Virginia expand Medicaid coverage.

Additionally, Dickenson Community Hospital employs 50 hard-working team members and has an economic impact to the county of \$5.4 million. While those numbers would not be considered substantial for other areas, they are critical to our locality.

I am sure that you are aware that Lee Regional Medical Center in Southwest Virginia has already closed its doors. I do not want that same fate for my hospital and for the citizens of Dickenson County.

While I realize your decision and recommendation has a number of complex components, what is not complex is the obvious health and economic good that will come from the expansion of Medicaid services in Virginia. I strongly encourage you to support and recommend expansion.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Vanover  
Assistant Vice President