



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 7:11 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Donna

Last Name - McWhorter

Organization Name - Virginia Organizing

Comment - Medicaid expansion not only would fill in the gap between the people already covered by Medicaid and those who qualify for subsidized health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Failure to expand Medicaid, which will be covered initially by federal and not state money, would mean failing thousands of Virginians, many of whom I personally know. I'm in my 50s as are most of my friends. When they got laid off in 2008 and 09, they couldn't get other jobs, but they also couldn't qualify for any federal or state services. These people are loyal Virginians who've spent their lives working hard until the recession prevented them from making their own way. Age discrimination prevents them from participating in whatever recovery there might be now. I've paid other people's bills out of my pocket several times over the last few years, because I care about my friends. But it is the state's job to take care of its citizens, and it's more than I or the rest of my circle can pay for alone. The saddest part is that some of these older but not elderly unemployed people are former state employees. What is a government for if not to protect and defend its citizens from loss of life and liberty? I see my friends now one illness away from early death and with nowhere to turn, which makes "liberty" a mockery. Why should people like me pay taxes if we also have to support our friends and pay their medical bills? I pay taxes gladly, as long as I know the state is taking care of its people. But it isn't right now, and that really taxes my patriotism. I'm an American and Virginian. I expect my government to behave like an American and a Virginia government and take care of the people who have for so long supported it.