



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Wed, Sep 25, 2013 at 8:39 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Erica

Last Name - Hilscher

Organization Name - Daily Planet

Comment - Medicaid expansion is critical for many Virginians and I urge you to pass the expansion through! I work for The Daily Planet, a non-profit healthcare center for the homeless and low-income, in Richmond, VA. We serve many individuals who have absolutely no income and would not qualify for health coverage under the new ACA guidelines. While they are exempt from the fines at the end of the tax year, they are still left without health insurance to assist them in getting the much needed mental and physical health care. The homeless population suffers from a myriad of mental and physical health issues and it is just as critical, if not more critical given their circumstances, that these individuals receive the appropriate healthcare. They run into barriers when it comes to specialist appointments and basic prescription coverage. While they receive excellent care at our healthcare center, we rely heavily on donations and grants for funding to stay afloat. For us, Medicaid expansion would mean that we can get reimbursed for our services, thus we would be able to stay open as a business and may even be able to expand to serve more of this population. Please reconsider Medicaid expansion! It is so difficult to say to a client who has diabetes, "we can't get you that insulin because it's too expensive," meaning they can't get a basic treatment for a very controllable illness. Or to say to someone with sleep apnea, "sorry, we can't find the money to pay for that CPAP machine." Medicaid would enable these clients and many like them to afford the treatments and care they need. Looking far into the horizon... better health = productive, happy and successful individuals. They stand a better chance of engaging in their community, finding stable and successful employment, getting off the streets and maybe even earning enough to get off of Medicaid and welfare. Please expand Medicaid to those who have low-to-zero income!