

October 11, 2013

Dear Chairman Hanger and Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission,

My name is Patrick Christiansen and I am the CEO of Inova Fairfax Hospital, an 833 bed not-for-profit hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. Inova Fairfax Hospital and its 5,040 employees provide high quality, compassionate care to over 385,000 patients in our community each year, many of whom lack the financial resources to obtain affordable healthcare coverage. I appreciate the important work of this commission and am grateful for the opportunity to express why Medicaid coverage expansion, coupled with program reform, is so important to my hospital and to the community we serve.

At Inova Fairfax Hospital, we care for our neighbors in the community without regard for their ability to pay. Last year, we provided \$46,107,000 in uncompensated care to indigent and uninsured patients. This care, though vital to the health of the neediest in our community, is routinely provided in the Emergency Department – an expensive and inefficient venue to provide primary care. Medicaid coverage expansion would provide approximately 70,000 residents of Northern Virginia with comprehensive healthcare coverage, affording them a medical home to seek primary care and freeing up resources in our Emergency Department to treat the truly emergent needs in our community.

It is clear the reforms to the Medicaid program sought by DMAS will have a significant affect on the program's future viability. Medicaid coverage expansion will have a significant effect on the community we serve 24/7/365. On behalf of the dedicated medical professionals and staff of Inova Fairfax Hospital, I encourage you to approve Medicaid coverage expansion so the neediest in our community, and 400,000 other hard-working Virginians, can have access to the kind of quality healthcare coverage that keeps people healthy, financially secure, and out of the hospital.

Sincerely,



Patrick Christiansen, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Inova Fairfax Medical Campus