



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Oct 7, 2013 at 10:47 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Jacqueline

Last Name - Dwyer

Organization Name - St. Bridget Catholic Church

Comment - Please protect the vulnerable and expand the Medicaid eligible population to 133% of the Federal Poverty level (a single adult making \$15,281 a year). Access to affordable health care is a basic human right and should be available to all. As a volunteer medical interpreter at an area free clinic and for Access Now, I know too well the needs of this population. Currently Virginia has among the strictest eligibility criteria in the country and ranks 48th in per capita contributions to Medicaid. Healthier Virginians mean overall lower healthcare costs across the state. The Affordable Care Act also eliminates uncompensated care reimbursement to hospitals. Without Medicaid expansion, hospitals will be left to completely cover those costs for the most vulnerable patients. According to a Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association study, Medicaid expansion in Virginia would provide an economic boost of some \$3.9 billion annually and create an estimated 30,000 new jobs in the Commonwealth. Without Medicaid expansion, Virginia residents' federal tax dollars will leave Virginia and benefit states expanding Medicaid. Thank you for considering my perspective in this important matter.