



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Wed, Sep 25, 2013 at 11:33 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Jennifer

Last Name - Jackson

Organization Name -

Comment - There are many people who don't have enough money to eat, have shelter, pay for transportation to appointments, AND buy insurance. Anyone working minimum wage 40 hours at fast food can't afford to buy insurance. Those people who have fallen through the cracks and have no jobs cannot buy insurance, even though they may be able to just scrape along with family help or small savings. My Aunt lives on a very small amount of money, she has never worked and is unable to do so. She was never tested for disability due to the family taking care of her. The family is shrinking and money to care for her is minimal at best. She cannot buy insurance AND food with the amount she has to live on. My boyfriend got laid off from his job a couple of months ago. He lost his unemployment due to a clerical error and ended up taking a job at a detailing place as a way to try to at least be able to eat. His skin was burned by the chemicals they used and the owner of the business refused to meet OSHA standards and provide personal protective gear. They wanted to charge him for even the gloves. He made under \$300 a week, and he worked 65 hours. He was exhausted and in pain and he quit the job because the burns were getting deeper on his arms. He could not get unemployment at all then. So in a house with no gas(so no stove or hot water), no food, no transportation (car was repossessed), and no internet connection in the middle of Richmond. He walked 5 miles each morning to the local Barnes and Noble to use their wifi to continue searching for a job. How can he buy insurance? He can't. He can't get SNAP, he can't get unemployment, and he is ineligible for any assistance. He will be homeless in 2 weeks. But he walked every day and it paid off and his new job starts next week. I was shocked at how little help is out there for those who are really really trying to get back in the workforce. And at how hard it is for people who make minimum wage. They just can't get ahead. I can't imagine someone with a child trying to work and feed and clothe a family. Much less someone who is retired and trying to just make enough to live. These people can't buy insurance, but they need it. They need help. There needs to be a way for more people to be eligible for medicaid. Having a little bit of money to live on does not equal having money to buy insurance too. This is not the third world. We cannot allow people to get sick and die because they can't afford health care.