



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Oct 10, 2013 at 10:48 PM

Reply-to: [REDACTED]
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - John

Last Name - Gazewood

Organization Name -

Comment - I am a family physician who practices in central Virginia. I write to urge you to recommend expansion of Medicaid under the ACA for these reasons: 1. I know patients who do not receive the care they need because they lack insurance. They forego adequate treatment of their asthma, their diabetes, their heart disease, their high blood pressure, their depression - because they do not have insurance. They miss work or school, their health suffers. Because they lack insurance. 2. I have cared for patients who have died because they have lacked health insurance. One woman had a small business, she could not afford health insurance. She had colon cancer, and while she received surgery, she did not receive the chemotherapy she needed, because she did not want her family to risk the financial hardship this would have caused. She died. Expanding Medicaid will save lives. It will improve the health of individuals. It will improve the health of our Commonwealth. 3. If we do not expand Medicaid, we risk loss of health care facilities. In NC, at least one hospital has closed as a result of not expanding Medicaid. Over time, our large teaching hospitals may lose funding for caring for indigent patients if we do not expand Medicaid. 4 National data shows that patients with Medicaid have better access to health care, and better outcomes, than patients that do not have health insurance. 5. We will all pay taxes to support Medicaid expansion. It seems like cutting off our nose to spite our face to send our tax dollars out of state to fund Medicaid in other states while our own citizens suffer. 6. Expanding Medicaid will help our state's economy. More patients will have access to health insurance. More patients will access providers, this increased demand will help physician practices, to grow. Expand Medicaid!