



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Oct 10, 2013 at 12:37 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - John

**Last Name** - Hastings

**Organization Name** - Independent Financial Consultant

**Comment** - Was previously unable to upload in PDF. Thank you.



Virginia Medicaid expansion.pdf

27K

October 3, 2013

Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of the expansion of Medicaid as contained in the Affordable Care Act. Providing quality health care to lower income individuals and families has long been an economic and moral issue. The approval of the Affordable Care Act gives us an opportunity to do just this, with additional financial incentives that makes it especially attractive to our Commonwealth at this time.

The treatment of lower-income uninsured individuals and families has traditionally been provided in hospital emergency rooms, at a very high cost to society and to the finances of the state. In addition, the care that is received under emergency circumstances is not the best medical approach to treatment. Good medical practice includes preventative and early detection, which improves health, reduces absenteeism and benefits all members of the community. Good health care is a public health concern that affects all of us.

It is no surprise that so many hospitals, doctors and other health providers favor the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia. It makes sense economically, as it will inject a large amount of resources into the state, creating good jobs and stimulating the economy. It makes sense financially. It makes sense medically. It is the morally right thing to do.

The only objections seem to be ideological. One holds that it unnecessarily expands the role of the state. In this instance, the fact that these lower-income families, many of them working poor, cannot get into the regular private insurance market is due to a market failure. To leave them out of the health care system for ideological reasons does not recognize this reality, and seems needlessly punitive and unjustifiable.

The second objection is that the Federal Government will not honor its obligations when the financial burden begins to shift to the states. This argument reflects an ideological distrust of government that has no basis in fact or history that I am aware of.

In summary, I believe the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia would be beneficial to the individuals, to the families, to the community, to the healthcare providers, to the economy and to the finances of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely yours,

John Hastings

[REDACTED]  
Arlington VA [REDACTED]