



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 4:10 PM

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

First Name - John

Last Name - Hughes

Organization Name - none

Comment - The law gives millions of Virginians a real opportunity to have decent, reasonably priced health coverage for themselves and their families. I believe that the state government can and should pursue this excellent goal. Coverage for all citizens creates economies of scale and genuine competition. It reduces overreliance on expensive emergency rooms, freeing them for true emergencies. In Virginia, the ACA will create jobs and stimulate the public and private health sectors. Virginia should take steps to improve its good standing compared to other states and invite new commerce. However, if the Commonwealth refuses to expand Medicaid, the benefits of the ACA will accrue to other states that fully implement the system, resulting in the loss of Virginia tax dollars to other jurisdictions. Health coverage under the Affordable Care Act is based on competition. It is most decidedly not socialism, as extremists call it. Most Americans will receive their coverage from private insurers through their employment or the new health insurance marketplaces. The marketplaces simply inform consumers about their options. Consumers purchase coverage from private companies, with the premiums of some lower income people subsidized through tax credits. This is not a government takeover of health care. It is more like a way to harness the potential of the private health care insurance sector to cover all Virginians. Please expand Medicaid now. Also, the federal government shutdown and the dispute over raising the debt ceiling reveals a naked political dimension to the debate over the Act. Depriving low income Virginians access to health care insurance coverage is a cynical weapon in a political power struggle. Virginia is better than that.

 **Medicaid Expansion in VA**
25K

Personal Statement of John M. Hughes, Arlington County, VA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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