



Virginia MIRC &lt;vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Comments on Medicaid Expansion**

1 message

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**Karen Whetzel** [REDACTED]  
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 10:01 PM

I am writing from two perspectives: as a parent and as a hospital board member.

As a parent, I have a son who is 46 years old and has end stage renal disease. When he went on dialysis, he became eligible for Medicare. My son has worked most of his life, but several years ago, received social security disability. For a brief time between my son stopping work and getting disability, he was eligible for Medicaid and was able to get transportation to dialysis, as well as use Medicaid as a supplemental insurance to help pay medical bills. Once he got disability (around \$1200 a month), Medicaid was discontinued. His wife works at minimum wage and has no health insurance. They could really benefit from having Medicaid, but are just over the eligibility limit.

As a hospital board member, I would like to see Medicaid expansion to help the million Virginians who are without insurance get coverage. Extension and reform of Medicaid would have a positive economic benefit on our small local hospital in Shenandoah County. Our hospital is consistently paid less than costs for Medicaid patients.

Please give this issue the serious consideration it deserves, and expand Medicaid in Virginia for all of the right reasons.

**Sincerely,**

**Karen Whetzel**

[REDACTED]  
**New Market, VA**  
[REDACTED]

Have a\*""")  
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**GREAT DAY!!!**

