

 LEGAL AID  
JUSTICE CENTER

October 16, 2013

Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission  
201 North 9th Street  
General Assembly Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**RE: PLEASE SUPPORT MEDICAID EXPANSION IN VIRGINIA**

Dear Honorable Members of the Commission:

I write on behalf of the Legal Aid Justice Center and our clients to strongly support the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia. As you may know, Legal Aid Justice Center is a nonprofit organization that provides legal representation for low-income individuals and families in Central Virginia. Our mission is to serve those in our communities who have the least access to legal resources.

Legal Aid Justice Center's clients include unemployed workers, disabled adults, and families struggling to make ends meet with low-wage jobs. Many do not have health insurance, which leads them to forego preventative care, early treatment, and medication. Of those, most are too poor to qualify for purchasing subsidized health insurance through the new health insurance exchange, and yet also do not qualify for Medicaid guidelines currently in effect in Virginia. For these clients and other Virginians caught in this gap, access to health care may depend on whether or not our Commonwealth does the right thing by expanding Medicaid.

By expanding Medicaid, you can ensure that our clients and Virginia's economy thrive together. This year's state budget includes a sensible road map for Virginia to expand Medicaid in Virginia's own way – insisting on thoughtful reforms, and then bringing Virginia's tax dollars back to Virginia to support new health care jobs and provide access to quality care for Virginians who must suffer needlessly without it.

We thank you for your service, and hope that you will work to advance the common well-being in this Commonwealth by thoughtfully expanding Medicaid.

Thank you kindly for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Alex R. Gulotta  
Executive Director