



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Fri, Sep 13, 2013 at 10:45 AM

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

First Name - Linda

Last Name - Berkoff

Organization Name -

Comment -

 **Medicaid**
108K

No Dollars For The Doctor?

Please Expand Healthcare Coverage for All Virginians

Growing up, my family did not have access to any type of health insurance. As a result, without money for a doctor, we just didn't get medical care. There were seven children at home. We rarely complained to our mother about sickness. Without enough money for food, shelter, and clothing, we learned to persevere. We had to be tough.

At nine I got a horrific case of tonsillitis. The infection was so severe that my tonsils literally decayed and I spit them out over a period of days. One of my brothers, Charles, had the same experience. Only when one of us had a totally rotten tooth did we go to a dentist.

After working in the mines from the age of 13 in and near Tazewell County (with an 18 months break to sit in the trenches in France during WWI) our father, at 54, was fired. No retirement. No insurance. No money. He was sick. Dad had Black Lung disease. He could not work. Then, our mother had to have a hysterectomy, and indeed the cost added to our growing bills, made for an extremely sad household.

While I hope you can design Virginia's system to make each of us responsible for lowering its cost with good practices, having access is so vital. As a Federal government retiree, I buy their healthcare insurance as well as long term care insurance, and work hard to stay healthy. I am truly grateful to have these options.

I support healthcare for all Americans and therefore urge you to support the Medicaid expansion, with the bright possibility that Virginia's approach to healthcare will serve us all.

Thank you in advance for any consideration given to my views and request.

Linda Perry Berkoff
Fredericksburg, VA 22405