



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment1 message

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 4:30 PM

First Name - Margaret**Last Name** - Nimmo Crowe**Organization Name** - Voices for Virginia's Children

Comment - Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment to the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission. Voices for Virginia's Children supports expanding Medicaid in Virginia because we believe it will improve children's health in at least two significant ways: - 25% of those eligible for Medicaid if you choose to expand coverage are parents of children younger than 18. Research shows that if parents have health insurance, they are more likely to get health insurance for their children and take them to the doctor. This means that Medicaid expansion has the potential to improve the health of up to 100,000 Virginia families that include kids. That is a substantial impact. - Youth with mental health disorders who are from low-income families often lose access to treatment when they turn 18. If they were on Medicaid or FAMIS as children, they may not have access to Medicaid as childless adults because the current income thresholds are so low. Most of these young adults will not qualify for social security disability, and they will not have a way to continue with treatment if they are uninsured. Expanding Medicaid would assist this extremely vulnerable population have continuity of care and would be a step that complements the progress Virginia has made in the area of mental health as a result of the Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force. Voices for Virginia's Children is an independent and privately-funded organization, and as such we are advocating for the policy that has the potential to help Virginia's kids the most. Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth.