



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

[REDACTED]

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 5:07 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Marilyn

Last Name - Breslow

Organization Name -

Comment - Please expand Medicaid in Virginia



Dear members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission.doc

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MARILYN BRESLOW

North Chesterfield, VA 23235

Dear members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission,

I am writing to urge you to expand Medicaid to include more low income Virginians. Access to health care is essential for each of us and inaccessibility is injurious to all sectors of our community. Your decision to expand Medicaid to those at 138% of the poverty line will enable close to 400,000 Virginians currently with no health care to become eligible for medical assistance.

For 35 years I have worked with refugees and other low income families. Entry level jobs paying minimum wage (or slightly more) may allow one to pay bus fare and market rent (\$750 for a two bedroom apartment), but there is precious little remaining to cover other costs. Hard working members of our community do not go to a doctor because they cannot afford it. Small problems become worse and harder to treat, infectious diseases spread and emergency rooms become the expensive default locus of care.

I am very aware that many are concerned that the cost of expansion will fall to Virginia taxpayers. However this is a very worthwhile investment in our shared well being. Federal subsidization of the expansion means we are paying even if we do not decide to expand this coverage – it makes no sense that Virginia taxpayers will be paying for coverage in other states but not our own.

Research indicates that Medicaid expansion will benefit Virginia's economy. More health consumers will support over 20,000 jobs in Virginia, generating an additional \$530 million in state revenues. This will grow our tax base and support the expansion when federal support is reduced.

Expanding access to health care is the right thing to do. I hope you will conclude that it is important to the well being of the commonwealth and will ensure that expansion takes place this year.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Breslow