



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Sun, Sep 8, 2013 at 5:57 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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

**First Name** - Mark

**Last Name** - Shepard

**Organization Name** - Adaptive Control & Test Systems

**About file** - The only way to limit government corruption is to limit corruption. Please say no to Medicaid expansion. Thank you for reading my letter.



Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission 2013-09-08.pdf

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September 8, 2013

Dear Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission:

I ask you to refrain from expanding Medicaid in Virginia or from doing anything that would further increase government control over healthcare. I could list pages of reasons to not increase government control over healthcare, but that data is readily available, so I will keep this brief and more personal.

I served two terms in the Vermont Senate when there was a huge push to expand government control over healthcare. And so I have done a fair amount of research into this arena. During floor debate I submitted data, but most of my colleagues were much more interested in what Billionaire George Soros, who helped secure the "Progressives" control, wanted rather than what would be best for the citizens of Vermont.

By the end of my second term all of my customers for my small engineering firm had moved all or part of their business from Vermont to other states. I had to find a new customer base and in the process we determined that the most logical thing for us to do would be to relocate my business and our family.

Now you should understand that this was not an easy decision. The reason I ran for the Vermont Senate and served while trying to run my business and raise a family was because Vermont was home to me and I care deeply about the people who live in Vermont. My family has roots at least 6 generations deep in Vermont.

So while I could present the many reasons you should not expand Medicaid in Virginia, I instead ask you to recognize that the downsides to expanding Medicaid are real and serious, serious enough to encourage someone like me to relocate so that my family's health care will not be directed by some state commission, which as all of you know is ultimately controlled by state budgets, no different than any other responsibility that is placed under state control.

Do we really want our health care to be guided by the same drivers that guide transportation infrastructure? I know I don't ... and enough to relocate.

While there were several reasons we chose VA, one was that at the time VA ranked number one business environment four years straight in Forbes Magazine. I hope you have as much interest in maintaining that nice environment as those of us who are trying to grow our businesses in Virginia. If you do, then I know you will reject Medicaid expansion and continue to push against the implementation of Obamacare.

For the wellbeing of Virginia citizens, I hope and pray you will restrain government. There is no harder decision in life than refusing power. Virginia has an exceptional heritage of leaders who had the wisdom and ability to say no to self-empowerment: Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Henry to name four of the most prominent. I hope those of you on this commission will join this group of incredible people by saying no to concentrating more power in government. Clearly the only means of limiting corruption in government is to limit government. Please do so.

Sincerely,

Mark Shepard

[REDACTED]  
Rustburg, VA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]