



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Oct 7, 2013 at 5:11 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Mary

**Last Name** - Cheston

**Organization Name** -

**Comment** - Dear Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission, Please protect the vulnerable and expand the Medicaid eligible population to 133% of the Federal Poverty level (a single adult making \$15,281 a year). Access to affordable health care is a basic human right and should be available to all. Currently Virginia has among the strictest eligibility criteria in the country and ranks 48th in per capita contributions to Medicaid. This is an embarrassment and a disservice to those in need. Expanding Medicaid is good for all to keep costs down. The Affordable Care Act also eliminates uncompensated care reimbursement to hospitals. Without Medicaid expansion, hospitals will be left to completely cover those costs for the most vulnerable patients. They are likely to increase their billings to all patients. Healthier Virginians mean overall lower healthcare costs across the state. Thank you for considering my perspective in this important matter. Mary Cheston