



Virginia MIRC< [vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov](mailto:vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov)>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Sun, Sep 8, 2013 at 5:22 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: [vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov](mailto:vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov)  
[REDACTED]

**First Name** - Mary

**Last Name** - Copas

**Organization Name** -

**About file** -

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I'm against Medicaid expansion in Virginia. Its high price tag promises to bankrupt the state. Medicaid's poor track record is rife with fraud. In addition, Medicaid patients often receive substandard care.

The burden for this expansion will fall heavily on Virginia taxpayers. Lower income tax payers and middle income tax payers have seen their Virginia tax burden increase 20% in the past two years. Some may say this doesn't make any difference, but those who are saying this are the same people who cannot explain to a 20-year old why they should, for example, work and pursue a college degree at the same time. Frankly, why should they, or anyone, work? It seems these tax burdens only make working more burdensome, and increase the allure of going on various forms of state support.

I have witnessed on numerous occasions how Medicare access is limited and rationed. One way of making under-funded systems more financially "sustainable" is to ration care, but ultimately to cycle the older and sicker patients "out" of the system. I don't think expanding Medicaid will help the patients involved as much as it will make it harder and harder for the rest of us to pay the extra taxes.

I would rather see a Medicaid system where the recipients were truly needy and deserving of our full support and able to receive quality care instead of an "expanded" system which invited abuse by the able-bodied but unemployed. I also think the truly needy deserve quality care rather than lowered quality of care in a system that simply is not financially feasible.

A recent poll showed that 25% of Virginia doctors felt they could not accept new Medicaid patients if the system were expanded. We've already seen this pattern in places like Ohio which has a much larger aging population than Virginia. In rural areas in Ohio, receiving Medicare or Medicaid is one thing, but you cannot find a doctor who can see you. Indeed,. Many doctors are struggling to make ends meet and find that these patients coverageonly covers a portion of the costs of their care.

Medicaid is a troubled system to begin with. We shouldn't risk Virginia's financial stability on what is a bloated, inefficient, bureaucratic, and "expanded" system. I am also unconvinced that in this "expanded" system we will actually be helping the people who really need it and deserve it, instead of encouraging even more disincentives for working and creating a culture of long-term dependency.