



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Sep 26, 2013 at 11:40 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Mary

**Last Name** - Johns

**Organization Name** - Virginia Interfaith Center and Virginia Organizing

**Comment** -



Medicaid Expansion.pdf

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Many faith traditions share the conviction that humans are created for the purpose of and called to reflect the compassion, mercy, justice and love of the Creator by caring for the most vulnerable among us. As a person of faith, I welcome the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and urge the MIRC to expand Medicaid as soon as possible. Ensuring that all Virginians have access to quality and affordable health care is a concrete way to live out our purpose as human beings. Medicaid expansion would cover 400,000 currently uninsured, low income Virginians. That in itself makes Medicaid Expansion a moral imperative.

For states that expand Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act requires that federal funding cover 100 percent of costs for the first three years of its implementation followed by at least 90 percent federal funding thereafter. Both the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services estimate approximately \$2 billion in annual federal funds for Virginia during the next five to ten years, respectively. With a new projected state cost of only \$1.1 billion over the entire ten year period, it is estimated that more than 30,000 health care jobs will be created by the expansion of Medicaid. Federal funds will replace much of the state's current general fund expenditures for providing emergency care to the uninsured in hospitals throughout Virginia, resulting in less cost to Virginia over the next six years than if we did not expand Medicaid.

It seems to me that if we respond faithfully to our widely shared moral imperative to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, we will also be strengthening the whole Commonwealth. I urge you to act now to expand Medicaid!