



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Sat, Oct 5, 2013 at 9:46 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Murray

Last Name - Collins

Organization Name - Self

Comment -

 **Murray_Collins.pdf**
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October 5, 2013

Newport News, VA

Dear Chairman Hanger and Members of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the recent work of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission (MIRC). I have been a Virginia resident all of my 59 years and am having difficulty understanding the priorities of people who would deny hard working and the less fortunate access to affordable healthcare.

Consider two people working full time at 30% above minimum wage make a gross combined income of \$40,000. As a family of say 4, they must cover childcare plus all living expenses. This means they are living on the edge of financial ruin. A single mom is of course in an even worse situation. These folks and others like them deserve to have the basic right and peace of mind that their family can get high quality healthcare at no additional burden to their finances as residents of such an abundantly wealthy country.

I supported the compromise language of the General Assembly and agreed upon by the Governor, to first reform Medicaid and then to expand.

400,000 uninsured individuals will now receive access to quality coverage they so desperately need. A majority of these individuals are hardworking employed Virginians who don't make enough to buy coverage.

With recent cuts to Medicare payments and Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion is needed to fill the gaps for providers and our safety net.

Virginia taxpayers are paying for other states to take advantage of the federal money to expand Medicaid. We are sending about \$2 billion to Washington a year and receiving nothing in return. If we expand Medicaid, Virginia will see \$2.6 billion in 2015 alone returned to the where it belongs.

In addition, Medicaid expansion will boost the economy by creating 30,000 new jobs.

We urge you to stand up for Virginian women and their families and take action to expand Medicaid.

Murray Collins