

October 10, 2013

The Honorable Emmet W. Hanger, Jr.
Chair, Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission
General Assembly Building
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Hanger and Members of the Commission:

I write to request that the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission endorse expanding Virginia's Medicaid program next year, utilizing funding provided through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Optima Health stands with the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association and the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce in asking you to carefully consider expanding Medicaid. Right now, Virginia is leaving nearly \$4 billion in federal funding on the table that could be used to improve the health of our most vulnerable citizens.

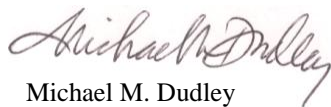
Optima Health has seventeen years experience as a Medicaid managed care organization. We have seen firsthand the value of health care coverage and a relationship with a primary treating physician. Through Medicaid managed care plans like ours, access to health care providers has improved. In fact, eighty-four percent physicians participate in Optima Family Care, our Medicaid program.

Medicaid plays an enormous role in allowing children, elderly, disabled and low income citizens to receive preventative and early treatment care. Expanding Medicaid will allow more of citizens to receive the care they deserve and need to stay well.

It is vital that Medicaid—and indeed our entire health care system—remain sustainable. Fortunately Virginia has a proven mechanism to ensure that Medicaid dollars are spent wisely, the Virginia Medicaid Managed Care Program. This private sector solution enables the Commonwealth to save money, gain budget predictability, lower future cost trends, and ensure Medicaid patients are receiving the world-class care they deserve.

In advance, thank you for your willingness to consider a Medicaid expansion as a path forward for the Commonwealth.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Michael M. Dudley".

Michael M. Dudley
President, Optima Health