



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

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Reply-To: 
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

at, Oct 12, 2013 at 6:57 PM

First Name - Patricia

Last Name - Victorson

Organization Name - N/A

Comment - I strongly support Medicaid expansion and thank the Commission for this opportunity to comment.



MIRC comments.pdf

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Dear Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission,

I strongly support the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia for many reasons:

- I personally know many individuals living with mental health disorders who are currently uninsured and will be able to gain access to mental health care. During the past year alone, six in ten adults experiencing serious mental illness went without mental health care, in large part due to having no insurance. Under Virginia's current strict eligibility, thousands of low-income adults who live with mental illness do not qualify for Medicaid. Expansion will change that, giving an estimated 40,000 adults who have a mental illness to access health care. Virginia already spends millions of dollars through the state General Fund to provide health care for people who are uninsured. Medicaid expansion would be a more cost-effective way of providing coverage. In addition, lack of treatment and services often escalates into crisis or even tragedy, which is much more expensive for families and society. More than 20% of our prison and jail population suffer mental illnesses, so the criminal justice system would also benefit from expansion.
- As an educator, I know that many low-income parents of children do not have health insurance. Indeed, 25% of those who would be eligible for health insurance with Medicaid expansion are parents of children under the age of 18. Research shows that when parents have health insurance, they are more likely to enroll their children in health insurance and take them to the doctor. This keeps kids out of the emergency room when they get sick and is smarter spending of our health care dollars.
- As a person of faith, whose congregation supports local homeless shelters, I know that vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness would benefit from expansion of Medicaid. Access to preventive care means improvement in quality of life, ability to work, and financial and housing stability.

I truly appreciate this opportunity to comment on an issue of great importance to all Virginians.

Sincerely,

Patricia Victorson