



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 1:02 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Pete

Last Name - Costigan

Organization Name - Greene Care Free Clinic

Comment -



Medicaid Expansion in Va.pdf

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My name is Pete Costigan. I am a board member and Treasurer of the Greene Free Clinic in Greene County, Va. which has provided free health care to uninsured, low income county residents since 2005. I am also a Certified Application Counselor (CAC) who will in the next six months help those eligible Virginia residents choose and enroll the best healthcare coverage. I urge the commission to advocate for the expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth under the Affordable Care Act.

All of the Greene Free Clinic's patients have incomes below – some well below - 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). In 2013, the FPL for a family of four is \$23,550, \$15,510 for a family of two and \$11,490 for a single adult living alone. Currently, families and individuals in Virginia whose incomes exceed their applicable FPL by a little over 30% are ineligible for Medicaid. Furthermore, all those Virginians – an estimated 400,000 - whose incomes exceed the applicable FPL by 30% up to 100% are ineligible to purchase health insurance in the marketplace under the Affordable Care Act.

The Greene Free Clinic will continue to provide basic health care for the county's low income residents whether or not Virginia expands its Medicaid coverage. However, the clinic's staff and board members see evidence every day that these residents could lead much healthier and more productive lives if they had access to the level of health care that Medicaid coverage would provide. They want to lead healthier and more productive lives and you are in a position to help them do that. Many of them are uninsured and in an economic state due to circumstances largely beyond their control. Please give them the health care support that they deserve.

We all know that health care – whether provided through Medicaid or some other source – is not cheap but we also know that the Federal government as part of the Affordable Care Act will underwrite the states' cost of this expansion for several years.

Thanks for your work on this important matter.

Pete Costigan