



Medicaid innovation and reform comment

1 message

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Thu, Sep 19, 2013 at 10:59 AM

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

I do think Medicaid in Virginia should be expanded. Access to health care can greatly improve one's quality of life as well as help them to become more productive members of society. After my divorce I found myself without health insurance and was unable to afford medications or see a doctor. Getting accepted to the free clinic was a long process. Getting appointments through Carilion to see a rheumatologist - bills that were later paid via charity care - for a diagnosis of an illness that left me in pain so bad I was unable to function - took me months to be seen. Since that time I was able to secure full time employment as well as health insurance. After a diagnosis of fibromyalgia, health insurance gave me access to dr. as well as medications. The physicians at the free clinic simply did not know what to do with fibro. I am now able to work a full time job as well as run my own business. I directly attribute this to health insurance. Without it, I would still be struggling. And while I do have days where the pain is still almost intolerable, I am far better off now than when I didn't have access to the right doctors and diagnosis. I believe that many people don't realize what they are capable of doing and contributing to society if they are ill and struggling just to get through the day. Many times, proper health care allows them a life they didn't imagine possible as it did for me.