



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Fri, Oct 4, 2013 at 2:03 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Robert

Last Name - Burney MD

Organization Name - Retired physician and quality professional. Former Direcytor of Quality for the State Department Medical Services

Comment -

 **Medicaid Expansion.pdf**
24K

R. Burney MD

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

I write to support expansion of Medicaid in the State of Virginia and offer the following points for your consideration:

1. These patients do not go away. When they become ill or need care, they enter the healthcare system at a later stage when their care is more expensive.
2. Without a provider relationship, preventive care and a focus on a healthy lifestyle are absent. This affects the overall health of the population, including those actively employed. These effects are not dramatic, but they are relentless, and they are unnecessary. One concrete example is the flu shot I received. Some of my neighbors in Rappahannock county do not have insurance and will not obtain this immunization. They will be at risk for influenza and the consequent effects on their ability to work.
3. Women and children are particularly vulnerable, and the entire program could be justified by the effects on these populations alone. When I was a child, the only immunization available was smallpox, so I had all the diseases my grandchildren will never have. I survived, but not everyone did.

As desirable as the program may be, I urge you to take steps to ensure that it is effective and efficient. These two goals are possible, but success is not automatic. I would set discrete goals and demand metrics to ensure that those goals are met. (Do not use the word "quality" in anything you write.)

You have a unique opportunity to improve the health of vulnerable populations and to save money for the taxpayers of Virginia. Do not neglect the "innovation" part of your title.

Sincerely,

Robert Burney MD.