



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Oct 3, 2013 at 2:07 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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First Name - Robert

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Organization Name - SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)

Comment - Virginia needs to move forward on Medicaid expansion for the following reasons: 1) If Virginia expands Medicaid, over 400,000 uninsured Virginians could get coverage. This is certainly a pro-life issue, a step in the direction of protecting the lives and health of some of our most vulnerable citizens, especially poor children. Virginia currently ranks 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending. In fiscal year 2012, 996,835 Virginians were enrolled in Medicaid (17 percent were adults, 57.2 percent children, 17.8 percent people with disabilities, and 8 percent older adults), and the state spent approximately \$7 billion. Why would we not want to extend coverage to some of the most vulnerable in our state? 2) The Medicaid expansion will be a boost to Virginia's economy. • The Affordable Care Act provides 100% federal funding for the Medicaid expansion for the first three years, and then federal funding is reduced to no less than 90% of the cost. • The projected cost to Virginia is dwarfed by the billions of federal dollars that will come into the state to support jobs and Virginia's overall economy. • Over a ten-year period, Virginia would receive over \$20 billion in federal funding while spending about \$1 billion in state funds. • Medicaid expansion would save \$1.64 billion over the next nine years. These savings come from using federal funds in place of general funds for services like mental health and reducing the growth of state employee health insurance premiums. • A Senate Finance Committee report estimates that 30,000 jobs will be supported because of the money coming into Virginia for the Medicaid expansion. • These jobs will generate income taxes and sales taxes that will help pay for Virginia's share of costs. • With respect to the fear expressed by some that the federal government would not honor its commitment, a column in The Washington Post's Wonkblog on March 5 explained that the federal government cutting support for Medicaid would be an unprecedented move — the government has only increased its share of expenditures since Medicaid's conception, and it has never reduced support to states below the original percentage. 3) What happens if Virginia doesn't expand Medicaid? • 400,000 very low income Virginians will remain uninsured. Most will be unable to qualify for or afford private coverage through the Insurance Exchange, leaving a huge gap in coverage. • Hospitals that serve the uninsured will lose more money. • Private health insurance premiums could rise even higher because of ongoing uncompensated care and fewer people in insurance risk pools. • Virginia loses the economic benefit of over \$2 billion in federal spending each year. • Virginians' federal tax dollars will help people in other states.



Testimony in support of Medicaid expansion.pdf

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Virginia needs to move forward on Medicaid expansion for the following reasons:

1) If Virginia expands Medicaid, over 400,000 uninsured Virginians could get coverage. This is certainly a pro-life issue, a step in the direction of protecting the lives and health of some of our most vulnerable citizens, especially poor children. Virginia currently ranks 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending. In fiscal year 2012, 996,835 Virginians were enrolled in Medicaid (17 percent were adults, 57.2 percent children, 17.8 percent people with disabilities, and 8 percent older adults), and the state spent approximately \$7 billion. Why would we not want to extend coverage to some of the most vulnerable in our state?

2) The Medicaid expansion will be a boost to Virginia's economy.

- ✓ The Affordable Care Act provides **100% federal funding** for the Medicaid expansion **for the first three years**, and then **federal funding is reduced to no less than 90% of the cost**.
- ✓ The projected cost to Virginia is dwarfed by the billions of federal dollars that will come into the state to **support jobs and Virginia's overall economy**.
- ✓ Over a ten-year period, Virginia would receive over \$20 billion in federal funding while spending about \$1 billion in state funds.
- ✓ Medicaid expansion would save \$1.64 billion over the next nine years. These savings come from using federal funds in place of general funds for services like mental health and reducing the growth of state employee health insurance premiums
- ✓ A Senate Finance Committee report estimates that 30,000 jobs will be supported because of the money coming into Virginia for the Medicaid expansion.
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3) What happens if Virginia doesn't expand Medicaid?

- ✓ 400,000 very low income Virginians will remain uninsured. Most will be unable to qualify for or afford private coverage through the Insurance Exchange, leaving a huge gap in coverage.
- ✓ Hospitals that serve the uninsured will lose more money.
- ✓ Private health insurance premiums could rise even higher because of ongoing uncompensated care and fewer people in insurance risk pools.
- ✓ Virginia loses the economic benefit of over \$2 billion in federal spending each year.
- ✓ Virginians' federal tax dollars will help people in other states.