



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Reply-To:

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Sat, Oct 5, 2013 at 12:35 PM

First Name - Ryan

Last Name - Nichols

Organization Name -

Comment -

 **Virginia Medicaid Expansion Comments for MIRC.pdf**
178K

October 5, 2013

Dear MIRC,

I strongly oppose Medicaid expansion in Virginia because Medicaid has proven to provide worse healthcare outcomes than private insurance and in some cases worse than no insurance at all. Expanding an already inefficient health insurance program that is known to have fraud will, in 4 short years, drain Virginia's state revenue that would be better spent on other government programs. The attached Heritage Foundation chart shows the cost curve of rising Medicaid spending that quickly reaches \$325 million per year – a heavy burden for our state to bear. Keep in mind that the relatively modest savings that are believed to be realized from additional federal dollars are in no way certain, especially given the current partisan bickering in Washington over federal spending cuts. It's reasonable to assume that large state tax hikes will be necessary to meet the growing demand for Medicaid spending within the next 4 years, and I strongly oppose tax hikes because they harm the economy.

Medicaid was intended to help the poorest among us...it's a safety net. If it's expanded to include the middle class, as it would be if it's expanded in VA, then this safety net would become more of a hammock, or worse yet a tangled spider web. The best health care comes from a private health care insurance system, so citizens should be moved in that direction and not into a government-run Medicaid system proven to have poor quality and access issues.

Our health care system accounts for roughly 19% of our economy, and I wish for that portion of our economy to be improved by the free market economy. I therefore strongly oppose the expansion of government-provided healthcare and recommend you reform the health care system in a way that is patient-centered. Healthcare decisions should remain in the hands of patients and their doctors.

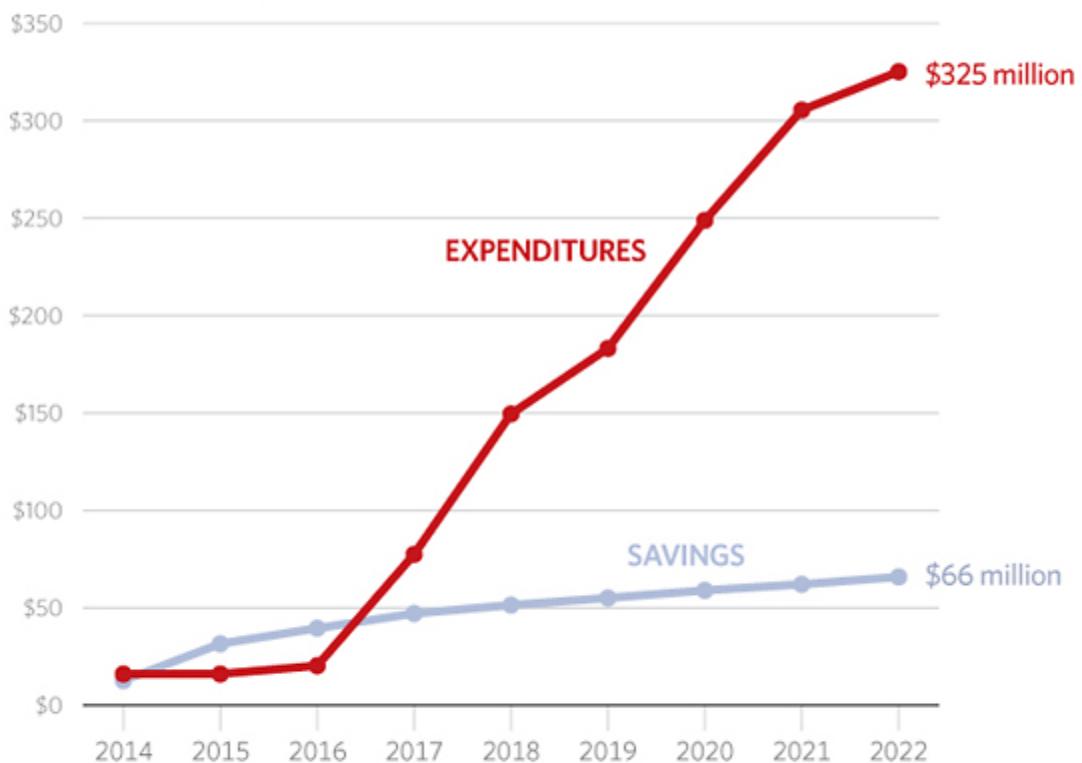
Sincerely,
Ryan Nichols
Alexandria, VA



Medicaid Expansion in Virginia: **\$902 MILLION**

Medicaid expansion in Virginia would result in a rapid increase in spending beginning in 2017, quickly surpassing any modest savings from reductions in state payments to providers for uncompensated care. On net, the expansion would cost Virginia taxpayers \$902 million through 2022.

STATE EXPENDITURES AND SAVINGS DUE TO
MEDICAID EXPANSION, IN MILLIONS



Sources: Heritage Foundation calculations based on data and methodology from John Holahan et al., the Urban Institute, "The Cost and Coverage Implications of the ACA Medicaid Expansion: National and State-by-State Analysis," Kaiser Foundation, November 2012, <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8384.pdf> (accessed February 28, 2013).