



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## please expand Medicaid

1 message

**Samantha Sterba** <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Oct 4, 2013 at 2:02 PM

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

My comments are attached as PDF.

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 **Dear Chairman Hanger and Members of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission.pdf**  
50K

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission. I hope that you will choose to help thousands of Virginians receive health coverage and to expand Medicaid.

Thousands of Virginians will be eligible for health insurance with the Medicaid expansion. To those thousands of Virginians, the Medicaid expansion represents the access to desperately needed health care that otherwise they would be ineligible for. **These Virginians are hard working, employed Virginians, yet unable to receive health insurance through their employer and unable to pay out of their earnings for insurance.** Without having an employer negotiating the insurance contracts for you, private insurance can be prohibitively expensive. These Virginians should be able to receive coverage through the Medicaid expansion; otherwise working Virginians will be allowed to slip through the cracks. By going without insurance, individuals are likely to receive necessary preventative care and treatments. There are social losses to this personal cost.

Besides the benefits of expanding health insurance coverage to more Virginians, the expansion of Medicaid just makes good economic sense. Without the expansion, Virginians are not getting the full benefits of their tax money. Virginians must contribute to federal taxes, which will help subsidize other states' expansion of benefits. If we include ourselves as Virginians as expanding Medicaid, then we will get benefits back in return, to our Virginia economy - where, I would argue, in this case it belongs. With the expansion of Medicaid, we will also boost the economy with an estimated 30,000 new jobs created. With more jobs, comes more spending, and with more spending more income. Please help support the Virginian economy's well being, as well Virginia's people. Please choose to expand Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Samantha Sterba