



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

I support expanding Medicaid to 400,000 Virginians

1 message

Sarah Montuori <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Tue, Sep 24, 2013 at 11:12 AM

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Virginia Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission
VA

Dear Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission,

I have spent more of my life without health insurance than with. When you have no insurance and never enough money, you simply don't go to the doctor. That leaves a mark. Since you're in the habit of not going to the doctor for anything, you don't go to the doctor even when you do finally have insurance again for a little while.

I have a chronic cough; I'm pretty sure I have asthma. But there's no point at all in seeing a doctor to get an official diagnosis, because there is no way on earth that I could afford the medications to control my symptoms right now, even with health insurance.

Was that sore throat strep, or just a cold? I'll never know; I've never had spare cash to go to the doctor for sore throats. Is that just a rash, or measles? Could I even afford ointment to treat a rash anyway, or a vaccination if the doctor says I need one? I can't even afford a flu shot right now, since I no longer work for a company that offers them to employees for free. Can I afford to take the time off to get well again, since sick time and vacation are no longer separate, and are kind of skimpy as well?

And yet, people who have absolutely nothing have better medical care than I -- because I have enough income not to qualify for Medicaid, even though I don't have enough to be able to see a doctor when I'm ill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Montuori

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