



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

## Expand Medicaid

1 message

**Scott Burnette**< [REDACTED]>

Wed, Sep 11, 2013 at 9:47 AM

To: Members of the MIRC Commission <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Dear Members of the MIRC Commission,

As CEO of Community Memorial Healthcenter, I am in a unique position to provide a perspective on the importance of the expansion of Medicaid and its impact on the southern portions of Virginia. The population served by our hospital is comprised mostly of Medicare and Medicaid patients. The community suffers with a 10+% unemployment rate with a very limited influx of large employers.

Therefore, most of the businesses in this area are small employers, many of whom cannot afford to offer health insurance to their employees. Many of those employed and/or out of work would qualify for the expanded Medicaid program, which would help them gain access to physician services. By gaining access to routine medical services, their chances of having a severe acute episode requiring costly hospitalizations would be reduced and their quality of life would improve.

From the hospital's perspective, while I realize the Affordable Care Act was not a piece of state legislature, the federal law does have an impact on Virginia hospitals. Hospitals who have a high Medicare patient populations like CMH's, have been required to absorb significant Medicare reimbursement cuts as part of the ACA. As you are aware, one means of offsetting those cuts was to be through the expansion of the Medicaid program. Without this expansion, hospitals such as mine are struggling to continue to provide services in the rural areas of the state. This is not intended to serve as a political comment, but a statement of fact. To continue to delay the expansion of the Medicaid program is not only costing the Commonwealth money, it is ignoring the over 250,000 citizens who could have better access to healthcare and, as previously noted, a better quality of life.

Please make prompt and definitive progress on this matter and expand the Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

Scott Burnette

[REDACTED]  
South Hill, VA [REDACTED]