



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Proposed Medicaid Expansion in Virginia

1 message

Sheila [REDACTED]
 To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 9:52 AM

Resending, had made mistake in email address.....thanks....Sheila Kuders

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Proposed Medicaid Expansion in Virginia**Date:** Mon, 14 Oct 2013 06:40:25 -0700**From:** Sheila [REDACTED]**To:** vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

As a parent of three autistic young adults and a Registered Nurse working for a Behavioral Health Treatment Center, I fully experience the struggles of people with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Disorders every day. I am a witness to the horrific lack of funding and insurance coverage to help these people have anything close to a normal life, or at least a bearable life. My employer, a major healthcare hospital system in Northern Virginia fully supports the Medicaid Expansion due to the fact that they are required by law to provide uncompensated care for the uninsured. Medicaid expansion would provide hospitals with some financial relief if they were able to secure some reimbursement for this uncompensated care. While the hospital system is aware Medicaid reimbursement rates may not be on par with conventional health insurance reimbursement rates, something is better than zero. The state of Virginia is currently implementing a Department of Justice Settlement which mandates expanding services to thousand of disabled people on waiting lists for medicaid waiver services as well as relocating current residents of Training Centers into community placements. Thousands of other low income Virginia residents could become insured under the Medicaid expansion. I am aware there may not be enough primary care providers for these people to be seen on a regular basis, however, if something happens to land them in a hospital, at least they won't face bankruptcy due to the medical debt that would ensue. In a telephonic town hall meeting I participated in a few weeks ago, Virginia's Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli stated that "the federal government is not going to fund this medicaid expansion after the first 3 years the way they say they are". I ran that comment by Delegate Patrick Hope, his response to me was the following "We accept federal dollars for education, housing, and transportation. The law calls for the Feds to continue its 90 percent match from here on out. Congress has never before withdrawn its promises on Medicaid". I implore the decision makers regarding this issue to look past politics, put this issue to bed and embrace Medicaid expansion in the state of Virginia.....Sheila Kuders, Registered Nurse