



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Oct 8, 2013 at 3:31 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Stephen

**Last Name** - Simmers

**Organization Name** - River City Comprehensive Counseling, LLC.

**Comment** - In our society today, where we have witnessed the tragedies perpetrated by individuals with untreated mental illness, this expansion proposal should be at the forefront, and a priority, of all of our Virginia State representatives. I witness the challenges of individuals who are living with untreated mental illness, many due to lack of access to services. I am writing to urge the commission to expand Medicaid in Virginia. I support Medicaid expansion because it will enable thousands of adults with mental health disorders to gain access to mental health care. Many of these individuals sought out mental health care, but were turned away, in large part, due to having no insurance. Under Virginia's current strict eligibility, thousands of low-income adults who live with mental illness do not qualify for Medicaid. Expansion will change that. Virginia already spends millions of dollars through the state General Fund to provide health care for people who are uninsured. Medicaid expansion would be a more cost-effective way of providing coverage. Sincerely, Stephen L. Simmers, M.A. Counseling, NCC