



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Sep 10, 2013 at 12:35 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Suzanne

Last Name - Shafford

Organization Name - Citizen

About file - Thank you for accepting public comments on this important issue.



Medicaid reform yes expansion no.pdf

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Medicaid reform, not expansion, should be Virginia's priority for several reasons:

1. Expanding Medicaid will add people to the Commonwealth's lowest quality healthcare program. Compared to those with private insurance, Medicaid patients stay in the hospital twice as long and are twice as likely to die. Compared to those without health insurance, Medicaid patients are 13% more likely to die. These are not good outcomes.
2. Expanding Medicaid coverage will reduce the access of Medicaid patients to doctors. Low payment rates to physicians for Medicaid services will cause them not to serve Medicaid patients. This will lead to long waits for doctor visits and longer distances to travel for such services. As under-compensated doctors leave their profession and fewer young people see medicine as a financially rewarding career, physician access likely will deteriorate even further.
3. As with many other programs, the federal government almost certainly will not be able to fund Medicaid expansion at the promised rates. And once Medicaid expands, the Commonwealth will not be able to back out even if the federal government does, leaving Virginia with no choice but to raise taxes or reduce services to pay for the expanded program.

Medicaid expansion is a Trojan horse, not a gift horse, from the federal government. Please pursue free-market alternatives and reform to existing Medicaid fraud and inefficiencies rather than expanding such a poor-quality system.