



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Oct 15, 2013 at 11:31 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Ted

Last Name - Edlich

Organization Name - Total Action for Progress

Comment -



Ted Edlich Letter MIRC.pdf

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Total Action tap For Progress into hope

October 11, 2013

To Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission:

Total Action for Progress (TAP) is the designated community action agency for a six- county and five-city area in southwest Virginia which served roughly 5,000 low-income families and individuals in 2012-13. Our mission is to encourage self-reliance and self-determination by strengthening and empowering individuals, families and communities, to expand access to existing opportunities, and to create opportunities and mobilize the community's goodwill and resources. In order for the clients of TAP to be successful in our programs and reach self-sufficiency, they must be in good health.

There are roughly 35,000 uninsured residents of the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes the counties of Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, Alleghany and Roanoke and the cities of Salem, Covington and Roanoke. As noted in a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Health Report, "communities with high rates of uninsurance are more likely to reduce hospital services, divert public resources away from disease prevention and surveillance programs, and reallocate tax dollars to pay for uncompensated medical care than communities with higher rates of insurance coverage." In addition, areas with a large number of uninsured families and individuals often see a lack of emergency care, specialty services and hospital care, even for those who have health insurance.

Those in good health are less likely to drain the state of resources which can be used to expand other programs and opportunities. In addition, healthy people are more apt to hold steady jobs, contributing to the economy and, ultimately, building their capacity for self-reliance. Along with a larger, healthier workforce, Medicaid expansion would also bring 30,000 new jobs to Virginia. Therefore, it's not only beneficial for TAP clients, but for the Commonwealth as a whole to expand Medicaid.

Expansion would mean that thousands of people in the greater Roanoke Valley would have access to quality medical care, improving their personal health as well as the health of the region and state's economy. I respectfully ask the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission to support Medicaid Expansion in Virginia.

Thank you for your consideration,



Ted Edlich, III

President & CEO

Total Action for Progress