



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Medicaid expansion public comment

1 message

Victoria Powell <[REDACTED]>
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Wed, Oct 2, 2013 at 11:07 PM

Hello,

I was unable to upload a copy of the pdf I created via the website. I'd like to respectfully submit my public comments. I have attached the pdf. Thank you.

Victoria Powell

 **Medicaid expansion public comment.pdf**
34K

Dear Chairman Hanger and Members of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission:

I'm writing as a life-long citizen of Virginia and a medical student at Virginia Commonwealth University about to graduate and pursue training in internal medicine. It is imperative that Medicaid be expanded in our state. During the course of medical school, I have met many poor Virginians with absolutely no opportunity for health insurance coverage. These Virginians delay preventive treatment and often present to urgent care settings with expensive, life-threatening problems. To currently qualify for Medicaid, one has to have less than approximately \$6,000/year for a family of four. According to the Commonwealth Institute, there are only 6 other states who make it harder for working parents to receive Medicaid.ⁱ Could you imagine trying to raise children on \$6,000/year? These Virginians want to provide for their families and better their lot in life, but they are stuck in a cycle of poverty. And if they somehow manage to make more money, they will lose their health insurance. What if you had to make that choice?

Not only is expanding Medicaid the moral choice, it is the most financially sound decision for Virginia's taxpayers. With the federal government covering 100% of the initial cost of expansion, **we will be paying for other states to expand their Medicaid while receiving none of the benefit.** Almost half a million Virginians would be covered under the expanded Medicaid, and many of these citizens work. How shameful for our state – many of these people will be working to pay for others' healthcare, while being denied theirs.

Please consider this issue outside of partisan politics. Please do the right thing and agree to expand Medicaid. Thank you.

Victoria D. Powell
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