



President
Ron Thompson

Treasurer
Brenda Kennedy

Secretary
Myrtle Fitzgerald

October 10, 2013

To Committee Members for Expanding Medicaid

The members of the Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans, a 54,000 membership statewide grassroots organization in Virginia appeal to you as committee members to expand Medicaid for all Virginians.

Medicaid expansion would bring 30,000 jobs to the Commonwealth and \$4 billion in tax revenue along with health coverage to 400,000 previously uninsured Virginians.

In the event it is not expanded it would be detrimental to the wellbeing of all Virginians and especially to seniors and retirees living on fixed incomes. Retirees and seniors are already struggling to make ends meet. We are getting doors slammed in our faces everywhere we open one. On the state level it is in expanding Medicaid and on the federal level we now have to worry if our Social Security and Medicare will be gutted, because of inefficient handling of these programs by our elected officials.

You are aware the approved budget allows for expansion once a commission signs off on the expansion. What are you waiting on? Do the right thing sign off on the expansion of Medicaid. Virginians do not want to pay \$1,750 per taxpayer a year in taxes to go to another state. Keep our tax money at home expand Medicaid.

I am speaking for a unit of 54,000 retired and senior voters in Virginia standing united together.

Thank you,

Ron Thompson, President, VARA

