Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Please expand Medicaid

1 message

William Stewart<█████████   Fri, Oct 4, 2013 at 4:01 PM
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission
201 North 9th Street
General Assembly Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219

October 4, 2013

Dear MIRC,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the recent work of the Medicaid Reform and
Innovation Commission (MIRC).

As a long-term resident of the Commonwealth, I am concerned about the well-being of my fellow
citizens. I also believe that the better the community's health, the better our individual health will be, as
our exposure to harmful diseases is reduced when everyone is healthier. That's why my small
business (four employees) made a considerable sacrifice to insure its workers. Unfortunately, too
many Virginians do not have access to employer-sponsored health care.

I support the compromise language of the General Assembly and agreed upon by the Governor, to
first reform Medicaid and then to expand it. As a result, 400,000 uninsured individuals will now receive
access to quality coverage they so desperately need. A majority of these individuals are hard working,
employed Virginians who don't make enough to buy coverage.

With recent cuts to Medicare payments and Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments under
the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion is needed to fill the gaps for providers and bolster our
safety net. Virginia taxpayers are paying for other states to take advantage of the federal money to
expand Medicaid. We are sending about $2 billion to Washington a year and receiving nothing in
return. If we expand Medicaid, Virginia will see $2.6 billion in 2015 alone returned to the where it
belongs.

In addition, Medicaid expansion will boost the economy by creating 30,000 new jobs.
I urge you to stand up for Virginia women and their families and take action to expand Medicaid in our
great Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

William R. Stewart,
former Head, Alexandria Friends School

Arlington, VA