



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Wed, Sep 11, 2013 at 2:34 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Amanda

Last Name - Andere

Organization Name - FACETS

Comment - Tasha is a loving mother who works hard but has no insurance through her employer. She lives in one of FACETS' affordable housing programs. Although her children's needs are met through Medicaid, she is struggling with diabetes and depression, and cannot cover the costs associated with seeing a doctor or buying medication. She would like nothing more than to have a full-time job that offers health benefits, but those are hard to come by. Tasha's story is similar to thousands of other families in Virginia -- working families who serve us coffee, drive our buses, bag our groceries, every day -- without health care coverage. That's why it's so important that Virginia lawmakers expand Medicaid. Currently, Medicaid only helps working parents with income of up to \$7,000 per year -- about 30 percent below the federal poverty line. The Affordable Care Act allows states to expand Medicaid eligibility to residents who earn up to 38 percent more than the federal poverty level -- about \$31,000 for a family of four. This would allow between 300,000 and 400,000 of the one million uninsured Virginians to gain access to comprehensive healthcare. Families want to take responsibility for their health and the health of their children, but they need affordable options to be able to do so Medicaid Expansion is an excellent deal for Virginia. When adopted, it will: provide coverage for up to 400,000 uninsured Virginians, following federal approval of the reforms; secure \$2 billion / year in federal funding (our federal tax dollars) for Virginia's healthcare sector, enable creation of 30,000 jobs, spur economic development, and generate new state tax revenues; save millions in state dollars being spent now on state/local health programs; protect those state savings for state innovations and future state financial obligations. Additional deferral of expanding Medicaid costs every Virginia taxpayer \$5 million /day of lost federal funding;\$370,000/day of lost savings from reductions in state health expenses that could be covered with federal funding; \$110,000/day in tax revenues from new health sector jobs that would be created by the federal funding. The untold costs and risks for up to 400,000 currently uninsured Virginians who would benefit from expansion. We urge the MIRC to proceed on its findings to support genuine innovation and the expansion of Medicaid program in Virginia as quickly as possible.