



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

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Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 12:47 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]  
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Amy

**Last Name** - Barnes

**Organization Name** -

**Comment** -



**Public Comment - Medicaid Expansion.docx**

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October 14, 2013

Re: Medicaid Expansion

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

I am a resident of the state of Virginia and have a 28 year old grown daughter who is the mother of a young son and currently uninsured. She was covered as a dependent on my health insurance plan until she reached aged 26 and was no longer eligible. She is now living on her own with her son and is enrolled full-time in graduate school where she receives a \$10,000 teaching and research assistantship. Prior to enrolling in graduate school she was covered by Medicaid, but now earns too much for coverage.

We were anxiously awaiting the opening of the Health Insurance Marketplaces so that she would purchase individual coverage. We recently learned that she will not be eligible to purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act - she is one of many Virginians that will fall through the cracks because Virginia has elected not to expand Medicaid.

If Virginia expands Medicaid, 400,000 uninsured individuals like my daughter will receive access to quality coverage they so desperately need. Like my daughter, a majority of these individuals are hardworking 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 our safety net.

It is my understanding that 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.

Please stand up for Virginian women and their families and take action to expand Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Amy Diamond Barnes

