



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 10:39 AM

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

First Name - Christopher

Last Name - Nettles

Organization Name - Mr.

Comment -



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Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission
201 North 9th St.
General Assembly Building
Richmond, VA 23219

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

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the recent work of the Medicaid Reform and Innovation Commission (MIRC).

I fully and wholeheartedly support the compromise language of the General Assembly and agreed upon by the Governor, to first reform Medicaid and then to expand it.

I am a resident of Virginia. Professionally, I am an HIV and sexually transmitted infection prevention researcher. I have seen firsthand how lack of access to medical care shortens the lives of those struggling with HIV.

With an expansion, at least 400,000 uninsured individuals would receive access to quality coverage they so desperately need. A majority of these individuals are hardworking, employed Virginians who don't make enough to buy coverage. Ensuring access to primary care and prevention services for our most vulnerable citizens is among the best ways to limit new HIV infections in the state of Virginia.

With recent cuts to Medicare payments and Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion is also crucial to address the widening gaps for providers and our safety net.

We are sending billions in taxes each year to Washington that ends up allowing other states to take advantage of federal money to expand Medicaid, while we miss out. Both the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services estimate that Virginia will see over \$2 billion in new federal dollars annually for the next decade, if we expand Medicaid.

Furthermore, analysis by The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association indicates that Medicaid expansion in Virginia would result in a large annual positive economic impact. According to the study, Virginia would see an annual positive economic impact of \$3.9 billion and add 30,821 jobs from 2014 to 2019, when one accounts for the indirect effects of Medicaid expansion.

I urge you to stand up for Virginian's and their families and take immediate action to expand Medicaid.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,



Christopher D. Nettles, M.A.; M.Phil
Arlington, VA [REDACTED]

cc: Janet D. Howell, State Senator