



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 8:07 PM

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

First Name - Claire

Last Name - Curry

Organization Name - Personal comment from a voting and tax-paying citizen of Virginia

Comment -



Medicaid Expansion Public Comment.pdf

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To: Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission

From: Claire E. Curry, Esq.

Re: Medicaid Expansion in Virginia

Date: October 14, 2013

Please expand Medicaid in Virginia without delay. Decency and compassion should lead us to expand Medicaid so that thousands upon thousands of Virginians can finally become insured. Even leaving morality aside, Medicaid expansion in Virginia is the only decision which makes economic sense. A modest investment of Virginia dollars will draw down a tremendous amount of federal help to insure Virginians, most of whom are working poor families who should not have to live one medical event away from financial devastation. It would be extremely poor decision-making for Virginia to decide to reject the expansion, and let all the federal tax dollars which we Virginians pay, get sent to the other states which are wise enough to expand their Medicaid programs. Medicaid expansion is critically important for poor Virginians who do not meet current Medicaid rules, who have no insurance, and whose earnings are too low to qualify for help purchasing insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Without Medicaid expansion they will continue to be left out. It will cost all Virginians dearly if hundreds of thousands who could have been insured are left out. They may have little choice but to delay medical care until health has deteriorated and treatment is more costly. Or they may be reduced to accessing medical care through emergency rooms. There was initial fear and opposition to Medicare by some, but Medicare turned out to be such an important part of our safety net and a program valued by all. The expansion of Medicaid will likewise be viewed in hindsight as a huge step in the right direction for Virginians. Expanding Medicaid makes economic and moral sense. It would bring our tax dollars back to Virginia, create thousands of new jobs, improve the economy, and uphold the dignity of nearly 400,000 of our fellow Virginians by giving them access to timely, appropriate health care.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.