



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Oct 15, 2013 at 12:11 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - David

Last Name - Brash

Organization Name - Wellmont Health System

Comment -



MIRC Wellmont Brash.pdf

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October 13, 2013

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

I am a resident on Lebanon, VA, and I am the Senior Vice-President of Business Development and Rural Strategy for Wellmont Health System, with hospitals located in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee. I respectfully ask you to consider the effects on rural communities and their hospitals while embarking on your consideration of Medicaid reform and expansion.

Virginia is a unique and diverse Commonwealth, and I live and work in the Southwest region of the Commonwealth which boasts of mainly rural communities and the opportunities and challenges that these communities face. Rural hospitals, in particular, have been under tremendous pressures to remain viable with the rollout of the Affordable Care Act, sequestration, and now the questionable expansion of Medicaid to our most vulnerable. The potential for economic growth in SWVA is mostly dependent on business recruitment, excellent healthcare and excellent educational opportunities. When Wellmont made the decision to close Lee Regional Medical Center in Pennington Gap, VA on October 1, 2013, the County lost one of its largest employers and greatest economic drivers. This ultimately creates a tremendous gap in access of care for the residents of Lee County and surrounding areas.

Our health system has implemented system wide reforms to ensure high quality, low cost medical care options to the patients in our region, and we will continue to do our part in assuring this approach for our patients. We want our patients to seek appropriate care in the timeframe that is most appropriate to ensure the quality of life we all strive for. When patients do not have medical coverage and/or access to the healthcare they need, the overall health of these communities will suffer, along with their economies.

We hope that you will consider the dual path of Medicaid reform and expansion for the betterment of the residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the future of all Virginians.

David Brash

Senior Vice-President of Business Development and Rural Strategy
Wellmont Health System