

Dear MIRC Commission,

I am writing to urge the commission to expand Medicaid in Virginia. I support Medicaid expansion because it will enable thousands of adults with mental health disorders to gain access to mental health care. During the past year alone, six in ten adults experiencing serious mental illness went without mental health care, in large part due to having no insurance. We are caregivers for two adults who are unable to work because of a mental disability, they have no insurance, because of their ages we cannot include them on our insurance, Medicaid would help them receive the care they need. Under Virginia's current strict eligibility, thousands of low-income adults who live with mental illness do not qualify for Medicaid. Expansion will change that. Virginia already spends millions of dollars through the state General Fund to provide health care for people who are uninsured. Medicaid expansion would be a more cost effective way of providing coverage.

Sincerely,

Genine and Stanley Smith