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Public comment on Medicaid expansion

1 message


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I do not think I have ever spoken to a group on an issue more important to women and men in Virginia or the United States. The Medicaid expansion is that issue. Families and women especially depend on it.

In our lifetimes, women make less money than men. If you are a female, you make 77 cents or less for every dollar a man makes. That means we make less in Social Security payments and survive longer. If women are divorced, they are the ones who raise the children and in a lot of cases, get no child support. This translates to less or no savings for old age. These women need Medicaid for their families to survive if they are working low paying jobs.

Women are the chief recipients of Medicaid among the elderly because we live longer, and may need to live in elder care facilities at the end of our lives. Most families cannot afford to pay for elder care when they are raising their own families, paying college expenses, saving for their own retirements, or working multiple low-paying jobs just to live. Most people do not have long term care insurance or cannot afford it. What are these women and families to do? I know husbands and single, elderly men and women who worry that they or their spouses will be poor and on the streets without this assistance. As someone said in the last election, "This is about your mamma, not Obama".

Virginia ranks as one of the richest states in the United States, but we are in the bottom ten of the states who spend the least on Medicaid. Why? We are the Grinch of the poor. My friend on the hospital board in Fredericksburg says they need this money for the hospital to keep from cutting services, and to keep the Moss Free Clinic afloat. If we don't accept these tax dollars back that Virginians already paid, the money will go to another state which has the foresight to help its citizens be healthier, and provide them with more jobs and tax dollars to their economy. I hope that you will vote to be a part of the Medicaid expansion, and remember this is a vote for your family, too.