



September 23, 2013

Members of the Virginia  
Medicaid Innovation & Reform Commission

Dear MIRC Members,

I am requesting your support of Medicaid expansion in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I write to you on behalf of the citizens of Dickenson County and the patients cared for by Dickenson Community Hospital.

Dickenson County is located in the coalfield region of far southwest Virginia. Our local and regional economy continues to struggle with layoffs and workforce reductions in various mining companies and supporting enterprises. The Dickenson County unemployment rate (July, 2013) is 11.3% as compared to the state wide rate of 5.8%. In addition, 10.7% of the residents of Virginia live below the poverty line while 21.3% of the residents of Dickenson County live in poverty (US census). Further, Dickenson County has a much greater number of children living in poverty (27%) as compared to Virginia (16%) or nationally (14%).

The quality of life for many residents in Dickenson County is also very poor. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation produces its County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. This report lists the rank of the health of each county in the nation. The report ranks Dickenson County as 130<sup>th</sup> in health outcomes out of 133 municipalities in Virginia.

Dickenson Community Hospital is a critical access hospital. As the only hospital in the county, Dickenson Community Hospital provides essential access to quality health care. Medicaid expansion is essential to small rural community hospitals, such as Dickenson Community Hospital. As we shoulder additional reimbursement reductions from the Affordable Care Act, the community need for quality health care in Dickenson County continues.

I respectfully request your support of Medicaid expansion in Virginia.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Leonard  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dickenson Community Hospital



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
DICKENSON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL RELATING TO  
MEDICAID RESTRUCTURING & EXPANSION**

WHEREAS, providing compassionate, high-quality health care to our community is our highest priority; and

WHEREAS, health care should be delivered using available evidence-based best practices; and

WHEREAS, our health care system must achieve long-term financial sustainability; and

WHEREAS, approximately one million Virginians currently lack health insurance, significantly lowering the health status of the Commonwealth and shifting the financial burden to the privately insured population; and

WHEREAS, hospitals' emergency departments function as the provider of first, last and only resort for most Virginians without insurance; and

WHEREAS, DICKENSON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL provided care for 2,928 Medicaid insured patients and 1,121 uninsured patients in 2012; and

WHEREAS, DICKENSON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL employs 44 individuals; and

WHEREAS, the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) by Congress in 2010 includes provisions that place significant, undue financial burden on hospitals and health systems; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2012 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that Medicaid Expansion by states under the PPACA is optional, potentially removing many of the benefits of health care reform for uninsured individuals and health care providers; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and prudent for the Commonwealth to provide to those currently without health insurance coverage certain Medicaid benefits, and

WHEREAS, Virginia should, in a fiscally prudent fashion, seize on the expansion opportunity provided by the PPACA to foster overall Medicaid sustainability by reforming the current program and structure the best possible approach to providing coverage to the currently uninsured; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors supports a fundamental reform of the Medicaid program, including but not limited to benefit adjustment and care management reform ; and, be it

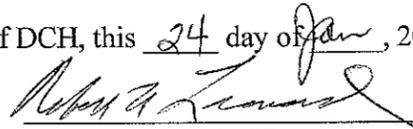
RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board shall communicate this position to the Members of the General Assembly who represent constituents within our service area as well as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Delegates.



**CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned Secretary of the Board of Directors of Dickenson Community Hospital ("DCH"), hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, correct and complete copy of a resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors of DCH present and voting at a meeting duly called and held on Jan 24, 2013, and that such resolution has not been repealed, revoked, rescinded or amended, and is in full force and effect on the date hereof.

WITNESS the following signature of DCH, this 24 day of Jan, 2013.

  
Secretary, Board of Directors,  
Dickenson Community Hospital