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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Sep 24, 2013 at 7:35 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Harold

**Last Name** - Frantz

**Organization Name** - Retired Military

**Comment** - I served 21 years in the Navy and consider myself very fortunate to have great medical insurance with Tri-Care for Life. Since retirement, I have worked in the civilian community and have seen first hand the effects on people with no health insurance. They don't go to the doctor when they are ill. They just "buck up" and suffer when they get sick. If they do go to the doctor, they suffer financially or go to the emergency room where the costs are transferred to the insured through higher premiums. Or they delay medical care until they are in extremis and the costs increase tremendously. When the uninsured can't work due to their illness, they get further into the financial hole due to loss of income. Sometimes, I think we the privileged (military, government workers, those covered by employers and yes, politicians) fail to understand what many good people who serve us in restaurants, hospitals, retail establishments, etc. deal with on a daily basis due to lack of health insurance. I believe access to health care is vital to the well-being of our economy and providing that coverage for the lower income people is the Christian thing to do. I don't like taxes any better than the next person, but I am willing to make a sacrifice, if needed, to achieve some relief for those who cannot afford health insurance. My attitude could be considered very liberal. But, I prefer to think of it as understanding the plight of my fellow man and acting compassionately. I believe in the long run, the economy is better served through greater productivity afforded by health care insurance. I urge you to expand Medicare for Virginia.