



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

## Healthy Roanoke Valley letter supporting Medicaid Expansion

1 message

**Abby Verdillo** [redacted]  
To: "vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov" <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>  
Cc: [redacted]

Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 2:57 PM

Good afternoon VA MIRC Members,

Attached is a copy of the letter we submitted via the MIRC website this afternoon from the Healthy Roanoke Valley Steering Committee.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment and express our support for Medicaid Expansion in Virginia.

*Abby Verdillo*

*Vice President, Community Impact*

United Way of Roanoke Valley

[redacted] Roanoke VA [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]



---

 **HRV MIRC Letter to Support Medicaid Expansion signed 101113.pdf**  
639K

October 11, 2013

To the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission:

Healthy Roanoke Valley is a partnership of over 50 public and private organizations, academic institutions, community and government leaders who are working to improve the health of those living in the Roanoke Valley. Our mission is *to mobilize community resources to improve access to care, coordination of services, and promote a culture of wellness*. Our focus is on the underserved populations in the region including the uninsured and underinsured.

In the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area including the counties of Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and the cities of Salem and Roanoke, there are more than 32,000 residents who are uninsured. According to a recent Community Health Needs Assessment, the uninsured are more likely to lack access to primary care, mental health, and dental services and are unable to pay for these services out-of-pocket. They are more likely to use the Emergency Departments for minor injury or illness that do not require emergency evaluation or treatment. Often they are unable to navigate the healthcare system; have limited health literacy; and have poor health outcomes due to lack of preventive care and chronic disease management.

By expanding Medicaid up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level in Virginia, approximately 400,000 uninsured Virginians become eligible for healthcare. In the Roanoke Valley, this includes 41% of the uninsured or more than 13,000 individuals. The majority of people who would be newly eligible for Medicaid coverage are working in the state's five largest employment sectors including tourism; retail trade; educational, health, and social services; construction; and professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services. (Commonwealth Institute, 2013)

On behalf of our many partners, the Steering Committee for Healthy Roanoke Valley respectfully asks the Commission members to support Medicaid Expansion in Virginia. Medicaid expansion will ensure those we serve are able to get quality, consistent care at a lower cost resulting in improved health for our community as a whole. Medicaid expansion impacts our region and the state's economic health by creating a healthier, more productive workforce leading to growth in the state economy, more local jobs and a vibrant future for all our citizens.

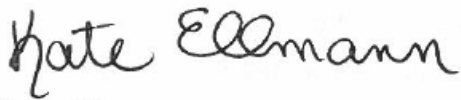
Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.



Gail Burruss  
Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare



William Caldwell  
Lewis Gale Medical Center



Kate Ellmann  
Community Volunteer



Dr. Tim Fortuna  
Carilion Clinic



Dr. Stephanie Harper  
Virginia Department of Health, Roanoke City & Alleghany Health Districts



Shirley Holland  
Carilion Clinic



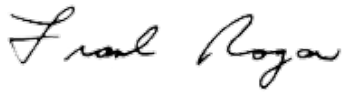
William Lee  
Loudon Avenue Christian Church



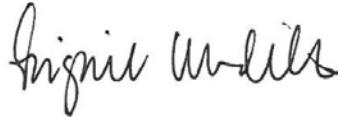
Eileen Lepro  
New Horizons Healthcare



Dan Merenda  
Council of Community Services



Frank Rogan  
United Way of Roanoke Valley



Abby Verdillo  
United Way of Roanoke Valley



Sarah Wall  
Community Volunteer



Pat Young  
Healthy Roanoke Valley