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Inova Alexandria Hospital

October 9th, 2013

Dear Chairman Hanger and Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission,

By way of this letter, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Christine Candio and I am the Chief Executive Officer at Inova Alexandria Hospital, a 318 bed not-for-profit hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. Inova Alexandria Hospital and its 2,000 employees provide high quality, compassionate care to thousands of patients in our community each year, many of whom lack the financial resources to obtain affordable healthcare coverage. I appreciate the important work of this commission and am grateful for the opportunity to express why Medicaid coverage expansion, coupled with program reform, is so important to my hospital and to the community we serve.

At Inova Alexandria Hospital, we care for our neighbors in the community without regard for their ability to pay. Last year, the cost of charity care totaled \$22.8M. This care, though vital to the health of the neediest in our community, is routinely provided in the Emergency Department – an expensive and inefficient venue to provide primary care. Medicaid coverage expansion would provide approximately 12,000 residents with comprehensive healthcare coverage, affording them a medical home to seek primary care and freeing up resources in our Emergency Department to treat the truly emergent needs in our community.

It is clear the reforms to the Medicaid program sought by DMAS will have a significant effect on the program's future viability. Medicaid coverage expansion will have a significant effect on the community we serve 24/7/365. On behalf of the dedicated medical professionals and staff of Inova Alexandria Hospital, I encourage you to approve Medicaid coverage expansion so the neediest in our community, and 400,000 other hard-working Virginians, can have access to the kind of quality healthcare coverage that keeps people healthy, financially secure, and out of the hospital.

Sincerely,

Christine Candio, RN, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer, Inova Alexandria Hospital
Senior Vice President, Inova Health System