



Public Comment

1 message

Jennifer Lee <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Sep 29, 2013 at 6:21 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: "vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov" <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Dear MIRC:

I am writing in strong support of a Medicaid expansion in Virginia. As an ER physician, I know for a fact that we could provide the patients I see in the ER with better care if we increased Medicaid coverage in the state. Virginia has some of the strictest eligibility rules in the country and as a consequence many low-income individuals and families do not have access to health care. Instead of providing them with preventive and ongoing care, we wait until their health conditions reach a state of emergency and only then do we address it. This is not only bad medicine, but it's unnecessarily costly as well. In the end, we all end up paying-- the low-income patients have worse health outcomes and get saddled with medical bills that they can't afford to pay and the hospitals and health systems shift the cost of patients who can't afford to pay on to the rest of us. We need to take advantage of this amazing opportunity to expand Medicaid and get care to the neediest individuals before they reach the emergency departments. It's the right thing to do and it makes sound financial sense.

Jennifer Lee, MD
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