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**New MIRC Comment**

1 message

Wed, Oct 9, 2013 at 3:58 PM

Reply-to: [REDACTED]  
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Jennifer**Last Name** - Peterson**Organization Name** - private

**Comment** - Born in 1957, I have survived the impact of two recession on my career path which has been in service of others - and often in lower pay scale areas that are often the first to receive cuts in the recession. I am already facing the effects of these two recession on my capacity to support myself as I age. It is remarkable to me that I am also to be of a generation that is becoming fiscally uncommitted to its aging ones - one who have so much too offer us if they can maintain a vital life - and will become drains if they cannot. To also contemplate the challenges of unaffordable health care, alongside the ever discussed cuts to pension and other aides to those on fixed income - leads me to despair at times. Thus part of my concern is deeply personal. However, the second piece of my concern is community oriented: we are seeing the rise of generation that has been displaced in work - often required to spend funds on education but arriving to a work market where jobs are MIA, wages are low, benefits are increasingly absent and long term commitments of employers are fragile - we are raising a generation that will not be in an easy position to offset the care of their elders if the government choses to let go of its supports. I do not see how this situation will be anything but a terrible drain on our culture, placing people in difficult circumstances which will keep them from being able to contribute to civic concerns. Who will that benefit I wonder - those whose world is fiscally secure in such a culture. As we are increasingly in an economy where such fiscal security is less and less the norm - I do not see how this plan can be viable. Finally - having lived in Canada, and as someone well familiar with Sweden - I can observe that the countries that have committed to the care of all, and of the poor - are actually doing remarkably well in the recession. Could it be that God likes it when we take care of each other and the poor? Could it also be that when we do not we incur the consequences both physical and spiritual, not just in the torturous lives that sick and indebted live - but in our communities and vitality as a state? Has anyone noticed that the countries stable in the recession are socialist/capitalism mix? The other alternative is China whose growth is rampantly mounted on an austerity that is mounted on the backs of multitudes of vulnerable peoples - while the rich and wealthy do not endure or properly conceptualize the conditions that these people endure - is that what we want here? This medicaid opting in/opting out is of this order: I think social programs help economies ride recessions out by providing a stable resource for employment...For example - when we cut jobs funded by government we also cut the taxes those jobs bring in. When we provide a service everyone needs and will benefit from - things begin to stabilize. It is humane math - not just math that matters. I think the math that many use to justify austerity can not in the end work -as it is really not austerity that is being requested - it is long endured poverty by some - so that others can continue their income making at levels that keep them comfortable - This is a socially unstable and untenable order.... Please begin to look humanely at the circumstances of those being abandoned by a rather blind fiscal conservatism - Start with this medicaid question. In my opinion it is an action of faith....I think in the depression what finally worked and was rewarded was not our greed but our commitment to care for all. When we commit to caring for those vulnerable in our system and made vulnerable by our economic order, we open up to a larger God one able to compliment our commitments. I think in the end it is a question of humane action and committed faith in a God that is big enough to love everyone and not just some - and is waiting to see if we will choose love or money to guide our lives, state and nation.