



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Support for Medicaid Expansion

1 message

Joan K Lawrence [REDACTED]
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

Tue, Oct 15, 2013 at 11:33 AM

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

Please ignore and delete an earlier email sent inadvertently under my name. While it contained reasons why Medicaid should be expanded that I support, my support is firmly based on my belief that Virginia must support its neediest citizens and that this support must include access to basic health care that is not now effectively available in Virginia, but is provided under the Affordable Care Act.

Reductions in health care costs have been demonstrated when individuals have ready access to the health information and care required to prevent chronic health conditions and when early treatment is sought for these, as well as other conditions. When all individuals do not have this access, the incidence of costly emergency room visits for treatment that can be more effectively provided by a health care provider in another setting has been shown to rise significantly. Such alternative settings will be made more available to those in need by expanding the Medicaid program in Virginia.

The Affordable Care Act seeks to ensure that all Americans, including all Virginians, regardless of income, can realize the benefits of good health that accompany access to good health care. Communities also benefit in many ways when all people have the potential for good health as a result of access to preventive health care as well as treatment for acute conditions. The public health and economic benefits to Virginia of expanding the Medicaid provisions of the Affordable Care Act have been widely discussed. While they are very important, perhaps as important are the less tangible benefits Virginia will gain from being perceived by employers and others interested in relocating to Virginia as a state that has the compassion to care for all of its citizens and the conviction to act on this compassion.

The support for expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act within the medical profession and among health care providers recognizes that this step is not only morally right, but also makes economic and financial sense for Virginia. Those who do not support Medicaid expansion appear to do so for reasons that fail to acknowledge reality. Moreover, they offer no viable alternative to foreclosing Virginia's neediest citizens, a large number of whom are working but have incomes below the poverty level, from any access to health care beyond the emergency room.

I urge you to do the morally and economically right thing and expand Medicaid in Virginia in accordance with the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

Joan K Lawrence
[REDACTED]
Arlington, VA [REDACTED]