



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 11:19 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Joel

Last Name - Moses

Organization Name -

Comment - In support of Medicaid expansion.



Letter to members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission.doc

26K

Joel Moses

Richmond, VA 23235

Dear members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission,

I am writing to urge you to expand Medicaid to include more low income Virginians. Access to health care is essential for each of us and inaccessibility is injurious to all sectors of our community. Your decision to expand Medicaid to those at 138% of the poverty line will enable close to 400,000 Virginians currently with no health care to become eligible for medical assistance.

I have been a teacher in both the Petersburg and Richmond City school systems and have volunteered extensively with refugees. I know the struggles low income families face. When one has few skills and there is a tight job market, the only available job may be in housekeeping. Hours are often short and unpredictable. These entry level jobs pay very poorly and barely cover the cost of bus fare and rent. Hard working members of our community do not go to a doctor because they cannot afford it. Small problems become worse and harder to treat, infectious diseases spread and emergency rooms become the expensive default locus of care.

I know that many fear that the cost of expansion will ultimately fall on the Virginia taxpayer. However I believe this is a very worthwhile investment in our shared well being. The initial federal subsidization of the expansion means we are paying even if we decide to not expand this coverage – it makes no sense that Virginia taxpayers will be paying for beneficiaries in other states but not for those needing assistance in our own state.

Research indicates that Medicaid expansion will benefit Virginia's economy. More health consumers will support over 20,000 jobs in Virginia, generating an additional \$530 million in state revenues. This will grow our tax base and support the expansion when federal support is reduced.

Expanding Medicaid and access to health care is the right thing to do. I hope you will conclude that it is important to the well being of the commonwealth and will ensure that this expansion takes place this year.

Thank you for your serious attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Joel Moses