



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Oct 15, 2013 at 9:00 PM

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

First Name - John C

Last Name - Geary

Organization Name - James Madison University FNP Student

Comment -



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Members of the MIRC

Please oppose any Medicaid expansion!!!

As an informed Virginian I beg you to consider the ramifications of such reckless actions as expanding Medicaid in Virginia. I could go on to list my credentials such as being a registered nurse or that I am currently completing my Masters in Nursing at JMU all of which I am sure you care nothing about. However, most Virginians do care and will vote in primaries and in elections.

I have already sent a much more detailed letter to Emmitt Hanger on the absurdity of any Medicaid expansion in Virginia. However, I currently lack the appropriate time due to classwork to develop all the reasons why Medicaid expansion in Virginia would be disastrous for my state so I will use bullet point format.

- Medicaid is already extensively abused in Virginia. I have seen patients return for lengthy hospital admissions for the simple reason that they didn't want to be at home if the power got knocked out. The extensive nature of the abuses is mindboggling. This is for the simple fact that something obtained for nothing is held in low regard—so it is wasted.
- The ridiculous Medicaid cost estimates for Virginia peddled by the Obama regime are a work of fiction. To get a more accurate estimation of the Medicaid cost estimates we should look at the past projected costs and what has already occurred with Medicaid. In 1987, Congress estimated that Medicaid's cost would cost less than \$1 billion in 1992. The actual cost that year was a staggering \$17 billion. Judging from history it is more realistic to assume that the Medicaid expansion will be 17 times the purported number which I believe is \$3 billion. So we can assume that the cost will be \$50 billion and not the cited \$3 billion.
- Furthermore, Hanger naively stated that if the government didn't hold up their end of the bargain, meaning that if the federal government didn't give 90% of the funds necessary to cover the costs for the expansion, that the state could then back out or alter the nature of the agreement. The court decision that gave the state the option of not participating in the expansion specifically stated that while the state wasn't required to expand Medicaid because of the unforeseen complications that the federal government would be allowed alter the terms of any agreement if the state agreed to the expansion. This was the opinion of seven Supreme Court justices.
- Disregarding the fact that the Medicaid will do nothing to help the 'poor' and that Virginia can't afford even 10% of the financial burden, the real question is will the government continue funding at least 90% of the costs of any Medicaid expansion? With the federal government borrowing 40% of everything they squander, is anyone in Richmond so simple as to believe that Virginia won't be compelled to make up the shortfalls that are bound to occur and will be massive. Offhand I believe the current Medicaid budget consumes roughly 20% of the state's general fund. Do we really want it to be 80% or more?
- I realize the thought of three billion dollars can be tempting but I am unsure if there is any distinguishable difference between 3 billion or thirty pieces of silver.

My name is John C Geary RN, BSN, and soon to be FNP please do your job and help ensure the financial stability of Virginia.