



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Wed, Oct 9, 2013 at 6:39 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Julie

**Last Name** - Ranson

**Organization Name** - CTA

**Comment** -



**If Virginia chooses to expand Medicaid.pdf**

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If Virginia chooses to expand Medicaid, everyone earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level who goes to an exchange (when the state is forced to adopt one) to shop for insurance coverage will be defaulted into the Medicaid program. Full Medicaid expansion would not just add Virginians not now covered by insurance, but could easily drive many more from the private insurance market onto Medicaid, increasing costs for Virginia taxpayers. This will also harm doctors and hospitals because Medicaid reimbursement rates are ridiculously low, and will force higher insurance premiums onto an ever-shrinking pool of people who buy their own insurance. Eventually, most of us would be priced out of the health insurance market, and the government will take it over.

The ranks of Medicaid eligible people could easily swell in this staggering economy. This will result in increasing state costs, particularly when the federal government's full reimbursement decreases. Virginia taxpayers are already paying quite enough.

Providing for the needs of the poor and indigent is the responsibility of people of faith, not the government. Don't expand Medicaid. Instead, assist non-profits and religious-based clinics and hospitals in fighting the devastating provisions in the ACA that will drive them completely out of business in the coming years. These entities can better serve the needs of the poor.