



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Importance of Medicaid expansion

1 message

Mark Clark <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Sep 13, 2013 at 8:49 AM

To: Members of the MIRC Commission <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Dear Members of the MIRC Commission,

I am a volunteer physician who practices in the Community Free Clinic of Newport News, Virginia. I see firsthand the effects of acute and chronic illness on the poor who lack health insurance. Most of my patients have hypertension, diabetes, peripheral vascular disease, and/or heart disease. Our clinic operates with the support of donated funds. This support has been grossly inadequate to meet the needs of our patients. Care has often had to be delayed or not provided. We frequently have to send patients to the emergency room for care which could have otherwise been provided in the clinic at lower cost. I also find it necessary to often avoid ordering the recommended screening tests and preventative care because of a lack of insurance coverage. As you know, this is being "Penny wise and pound foolish". In the long run these patients are at risk of developing more severe or chronic illness and in some cases even premature death. I strongly recommend that the members of the MIRC Commission support the effort to expand Medicaid in the state of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Mark Clark

[REDACTED]
Newport News, VA [REDACTED]