



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Sep 16, 2013 at 10:10 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Melissa

Last Name - Bondi

Organization Name - Nonprofit Virginia

Comment -



MIRC-Comments-NonprofitVirginia.pdf

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Nonprofit Virginia

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September 16, 2013

Hon. Emmett Hanger, Jr., Chair
Hon. Steven Landes, Vice-Chair
Medicaid Innovation & Reform Commission
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Members of the Medicaid Innovation & Reform Commission,

Thank you for making it possible to submit online comments on your important work.

On behalf of nonprofit organizations across the Commonwealth, we are writing today to urge you to finalize your timely and important review of reforms and new best practices to the Medicaid program. We also urge you to adopt Medicaid expansion for Virginia as provided by the General Assembly, so that the many benefits of the program can begin as soon as possible for thousands of eligible Virginia families and individuals, and for Virginia's economy as a whole.

Nonprofit Virginia represents a coalition of organizations from across the Commonwealth. Our members are long-time partners with the state in providing health care, job training, workforce development, education, and family services to Virginia residents.

We have followed the issue of Medicaid Expansion throughout the General Assembly's review process. We understood the value of the bi-partisan compromise authored by the General Assembly, which offers a path to full expansion for hundreds of thousands of Virginians. It included many guidelines for review and improvement for many aspects of the full Medicaid program, as well as the creation of this Commission to review progress on implementation.

The compromise established a timeline in 2013 for the work of the Commission in conjunction with DMAS, HHR, and other government agencies. We continue to believe that this framework can achieve the outlined reforms and permit expansion in 2014 – goals supported by health care providers, private sector insurers, nonprofit organizations, and residents in every jurisdiction in Virginia.

On behalf of our organizational members, and the thousands of Virginians we serve, we urge you to complete your work on innovation and reform, and to authorize the Medicaid program to expand.

As you know, Medicaid Expansion remains an excellent deal for Virginia. When adopted, it will:

- provide coverage for up to 400,000 uninsured Virginians, following federal approval of the reforms;
- secure \$2 billion / year in federal funding (our federal tax dollars) for Virginia's healthcare sector,
- enable creation of 30,000 jobs, further economic development, and new state tax revenues;
- save millions in state dollars being spent now on state/local health programs;
- protect those state savings for state innovations and future state financial obligations.



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In addition, delaying expansion will lead to serious costs to all Virginians, including:

- \$5 million/day of lost federal funding;
- \$370,000/day of lost state savings from reductions in state health expenditures that could be covered with federal funding;
- \$110,000/day in tax revenues from new health sector jobs that would be created by the federal funding.
- The untold costs and risks for up to 400,000 currently uninsured Virginians who would benefit from expansion.

As always, we look forward to working with you to make sure that our state leverages this much-needed opportunity for investment, further strengthening our economy for families and for business.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Melissa Bondi, Director
Nonprofit Virginia