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October 9, 2013

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Chairman
The Honorable R. Steven Landes, Vice-Chairman
Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Chairman Hanger and Vice-Chairman Landes,

The National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) urges the state of Virginia to expand Medicaid eligibility. NPAF is a national non-profit organization providing the patient voice in improving access to, and reimbursement for, high-quality health care through regulatory and legislative reform at the state and federal levels. NPAF advocates for policies that promote access to quality, affordable health care services for patients with chronic, debilitating conditions and policies that balance the advancements and innovations in health care delivery with the economic limitations imposed by society's efforts to contain health care spending.

NPAF's sister organization, the Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), is a national non-profit organization that provides no-cost case management, along with medical debt aid and other services, to patients with chronic, life-threatening and debilitating illnesses in Virginia and around the country. Headquartered in Hampton, Virginia, The Patient Advocate Foundation provides support to patients with chronic, debilitating and life-threatening disease, along with medical debt crisis consultation, co-pay relief and other support services. In 2012, PAF fielded over 100,000 requests from patients with chronic, debilitating diseases for case management and medical assistance across the country. Of those, more than 3,000 were from the state of Virginia.

An NPAF analysis of these patients indicated that 83.1 percent of Medicaid patients served would benefit if all states adopted the expansion, giving credence to the significance of this policy for people with chronic, debilitating health conditions. The health benefits that result from increased coverage under Medicaid may include longer, healthier lives as a result of increased access to care, according to a Harvard School of Public Health study published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Additionally, the state can realize economic benefits of expansion through reductions in uncompensated care, increased financial security for patients, as well as additional citizens able to contribute to society through the workforce. Increased numbers of healthy people will produce higher state tax revenues, promoting state budget health, and an increase in federal money through the higher Medicaid match will multiply economic gains.

NPAF urges Virginia to expand Medicaid eligibility in accordance with federal recommendations. Medicaid expansion will provide better health outcomes for patients and more beneficial economic outcomes for the state.

Sincerely,



Nancy Davenport-Ennis
Founder, Chairman of the Board



Alan Balch, PhD
Chief Executive Officer