



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

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[Redacted] Tu e, Oct 15, 2013 at 1:11 PM  
Reply-to: [Redacted]  
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Patricia

**Last Name** - Stewart

**Organization Name** -

**Comment** -

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34K

Dear MRIC Commission:

I am writing as a concerned citizen & a supporter of access to mental health care to urge the commission to expand Medicaid. Recent tragedies serve as examples of the risks of untreated mental illness. During the past year, 6 in 10 adults with serious mental illness did not have treatment, primarily because they did not have insurance. In Virginia, the approximately 40,000 mentally ill adults represent 10% of the 400,000 uninsured low-income Virginians who would become eligible for Medicaid expansion & thus receive mental health care.

I am physical therapist who has had a private practice and am married to a retired insurance agent & financial planner. I have a 31-year-old son with schizophrenia. I thus am aware of the issue of access to health care from a variety of perspectives. I firmly believe that both from a business standpoint (meaning cost-effective management of resources) and a moral standpoint, Medicaid expansion would be a sound policy decision.

My son is typical of Virginia's uninsured in that even though he works, it is not at jobs which provide health insurance. His brain disorder is such that it impairs his ability to work in fields which have those types of positions. He has not had insurance since he became ineligible to be on a parent's policy 12 years ago. Because is is single and childless, he does not qualify for Medicaid in Virginia under its current strict criteria. By enacting Medicaid expansion, more low-to-moderate income adults will be insured and able to obtain mental health care as well as primary care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Stewart