



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Oct 1, 2013 at 2:42 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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First Name - Stephen

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Organization Name -

Comment - I enthusiastically support the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia. I spent 20+ years in the health insurance industry and was involved in long-term pilot programs with the Medicaid populations in both inner-city and rural areas. For every \$1 that we spent on providing preventive and well-being services, we saved \$15 in later chronic healthcare costs. These studies have been replicated a number of times by various organizations and I encourage our legislators to review the science and economics before making a political decision. Expanding Medicaid to allow low-income citizens to receive insurance helps everyone. It keeps the population healthy and productive, reduces the instances of high-cost chronic health conditions, and helps lift this same population out of poverty. If freedom and liberty are our touchstones, providing access to healthcare is one of the best ways to provide it. It is also the moral and humane thing to do. In his last public speech, Hubert Humphrey said "...the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped." I hope the committee keeps all of this in mind when they vote on this incredibly important decision.