



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Tue, Oct 15, 2013 at 9:59 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Susan**Last Name** - Bragg**Organization Name** -

Comment - Dear MIRC Commission, I am writing to urge the commission to expand Medicaid in Virginia. I support Medicaid expansion because it will enable thousands of adults with mental health disorders to gain access to mental health care. During the past year alone, six in ten adults experiencing serious mental illness went without mental health care, in large part due to having no insurance. Under Virginia's current strict eligibility, thousands of low-income adults who live with mental illness do not qualify for Medicaid. Expansion will change that. Virginia already spends millions of dollars through the state General Fund to provide health care for people who are uninsured. Medicaid expansion would be a more cost-effective way of providing coverage. I work with individuals who are on disability or who do not have much income and cannot afford health insurance. As a result they do not get preventive or timely health care. Instead they wait until they are in more distress and go to the emergency room for healthcare. This increases the cost of healthcare to all of us. These individuals would benefit from Medicaid expansion. Other states that have looked into Medicaid expansion have found this is cost effective and results in having more money not less for Medicaid funding. Sincerely, Susan K Bragg