



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Oct 7, 2013 at 10:37 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Tim

Last Name - Hannigan

Organization Name - Virginians for Quality Healthcare

Comment - Stopping Medicaid Expansion• Addition of patients to state's lowest quality healthcare program. Medicaid will add people to the poorest healthcare program:– Compared to those with private insurance: • Medicaid patients are twice as likely to die as those with private insurance• Hospital stays are twice as long• Cost 26% more– Compared with those without health insurance:• 13% more likely to die• Stayed in hospital 50% longer• Cost 20% more– According to Physicians for Reform, Medicaid provides worse healthcare outcomes than any other form of healthcare coverage in America. • A recent GAO report revealed children on Medicaid have worse access to physicians than children with no insurance at all. • A 2010 study of patients with throat cancer found that Medicaid patients were 80% more likely than those with private insurance to metastatic disease... they were also 50% more likely to die. • Limited Medicaid healthcare options. Medicaid price controls will limit healthcare options, as the Government seeks to control Medicaid costs• Reduced access of Medicaid patients to physicians:– Low payment rates to physicians for Medicaid services will cause them not to serve Medicaid patients – This will lead to long waits for physician visits and longer distances to travel for such services– Physician access will get worse as doctor shortages develop from physicians leaving the profession and fewer young people see medicine as a financially rewarding career• Increased costs of Medicaid expansion. Medicaid currently consumes 19% of the Virginia state budget, but expansion will increase costs that Virginians will have to pay:– By raising taxes, or– By reducing or eliminating other state services: transportation, education, security• Increased dependency of Medicaid patients on government entitlements. Medicaid will increase Government dependency, even in the middle class, thereby discouraging self-reliance, initiative, and entrepreneurial spirit – those character traits that are the keys to upward mobility– People looking for handouts will migrate to Virginia– Producers will not want to establish businesses in high tax state• Reforming Medicaid waste and fraud first. Medicaid contains widespread waste and fraud that requires reforming before expanding the program– Recent James O'Keefe sting video at the Richmond Medicaid office shows a state worker advising someone posing as a Russian drug lord to leave his family's drug and prostitution businesses off the Medicaid application– The Department of Medical Assistance (DMAS) "Reform Matrix" indicates Medicaid recipients will be audited if allegations of wrongdoing are brought to DMAS's attention. The only other measure in the Matrix related to fraud by recipients is "Fight fraud and abuse with modern citizen identification tools" (whatever that means). The Matrix is not a complete listing of DMAS' anti-fraud measures. However, if audit-upon-allegation is the only true means test in what is a supposed to be a means-tested program, the potential for fraud is massive– Planned Parenthood and Health Management Associates strongly favor Medicaid but have been charged with Medicaid fraudulent billing and kickbacks• Increased Medicaid state bureaucracy. Medicaid will swell the state Government bureaucracy that administers the program, again raising costs and increasing the chances of bureaucratic corruption

