



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Sep 26, 2013 at 3:17 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Tom

Last Name - Zanol

Organization Name -

Comment - Please review my comment letter, and endorse Medicaid Expansion for Virginia and Virginians.

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Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC)
201 North 9th Street
General Assembly Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Sept. 26, 2013

Dear Commission Members:

As a person of faith, I believe that caring for our neighbors means ensuring that all Virginians have access to quality and affordable health care. Expanding eligibility for Medicaid is not only a sound policy decision, but a moral imperative.

Medicaid Expansion would cover 400,000 currently uninsured, low-income Virginians who are one health crisis away from financial ruin.

It is estimated that the expansion would bring 30,000 new health care jobs to Virginia. The economy is still recovering from the recession and 30,000 new jobs would be a huge boost to the Commonwealth.

Also, as reported by the Commonwealth Institute [REDACTED] and others, Medicaid Expansion would pay for itself through cost savings and new revenue. Virginia has many options to ensure that expanding Medicaid can pay for itself and provide coverage to nearly 400,000 uninsured Virginians. That's because Virginia currently funds a wide range of services for the uninsured with state general fund dollars.

To the extent that Medicaid would begin paying for some of those services with federal dollars, it would both reduce state costs and provide funding for unmet health needs in Virginia. While expansion is forecast to cost the state \$1.60 billion from 2014 to 2022 – with most of that cost coming in the later years – the \$1.64 billion in savings from expansion would offset all of the costs and ease state budget pressures.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge you to recommend to the Commonwealth that Medicaid Expansion is the best decision for Virginia and Virginians.

Sincerely,

Tom Zanol

[REDACTED]
Arlington, VA [REDACTED]