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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Oct 10, 2013 at 7:24 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Mary Ann

**Last Name** - Bergeron

**Organization Name** - VA Assn of Community Services Boards

**Comment** - On behalf of the 40 community services boards in Virginia, over 12,000 dedicated employees, 600 outstanding citizen Board members who are local appointed officials, and the over 200,000 individuals with severe and disabling conditions served by CSBs, I write in support of the Medicaid Expansion for Virginia. CSBs have worked tirelessly with DMAS to assist with the reforms requested by the Virginia General Assembly: implementing managed care in southwest Virginia, assisting and supporting the Commonwealth Coordinated Care Program and the Behavioral Health Services Administrator, implementing the VICAP process to assure appropriate needed services for individuals, which has saved millions of dollars for the Commonwealth as well as implementing projects and pilots that have resulted in reduced expenditures of State general Funds and more appropriate treatment for individuals with mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance use disorders. Early and appropriate services which can result from the Medicaid Expansion will save Virginia funds in unnecessary hospitalizations and incarceration of adults and youth whose treatment needs are now constrained and who often default to the most expensive treatment when unable to access early interventions and prevention. Virginia's health care system needs the stabilizing of the Expansion to extend healthcare to all citizens in our communities. Besides family, health is most precious to us all. Please do not deny that access to health to a large percentage of Virginia's citizens. Be the General Assembly that gives that gift!