



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Wed, Oct 16, 2013 at 1:30 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Bob**Last Name** - Becker**Organization Name** - Virginia Main Street Alliance

Comment - STATEMENT BY THE VIRGINIA MAIN STREET ALLIANCE The Virginia Main Street Alliance is a network of small businesses in the state. We are here to voice our support, as small businesses, for Medicaid expansion. You know well the cost advantages to the state for expanding Medicaid. Some argue that it will be less costly for the state to expand Medicaid than not. You also are well aware of the economic benefits of Medicaid expansion; the 30,000 new jobs and the billions in economic benefits. As small businesses, we want to stress the special benefits to small business from Medicaid expansion. In addition to the benefits all small businesses get from the economic growth and sound fiscal policy of Medicaid expansion, small businesses benefit from the huge reduction in the uninsured "free riders" in our health care system. Currently, close to 1 million Virginians lack health coverage. Many of these people have few health issues, while others struggle successfully to meet their health care bills (although we will point out that folks struggling, even successfully, to meet their health care bills do not make good customers for our goods and services). The remaining uninsured, those "free riders" who pass their costs onto the rest of us, are a huge burden from struggling small businesses and a problem that Medicaid expansion will reduce. Studies indicate that the cost of these uninsured "free riders" amount to nearly \$1,000 a year for every covered family in the country. While Medicaid expansion will not eliminate this cost, it will greatly reduce it. And a \$500 savings for each covered family means real money for small businesses to invest and grow. Bob Becker State Coordinator