



January 28, 2013

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CHAMBERSOLUTIONS
HAMPTON ROADS CHAMBER FOUNDATION
HAMPTON ROADS SPORTS COMMISSION
LEAD HAMPTON ROADS
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
OF HAMPTON ROADS, INC.
SYNC757

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell:

The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, representing nearly 2,000 companies that employ more than 280,000 men and women in Southeastern Virginia, supports Medicaid reform and coverage extension as a sound fiscal investment and medical policy for the betterment of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Virginia business.

This reform and extension would ensure that Virginia tax dollars stay in Virginia and directly benefit the more than 400,000 uninsured residents in the Commonwealth. These funds would also reduce the need for indigent care subsidies that exceed \$100 million annually in Virginia's budget.

The \$3.9 billion in federal funding will improve the health of Virginia's most vulnerable citizens, while generating economic activity and creating an additional 30,000 jobs in Virginia. It will also reduce the burden of uncompensated care on our hospitals, health care providers and businesses.

A recent report to the Virginia Senate Finance Committee highlighted that 26 % of the uninsured avoid care because of cost, and that when finally insured, the average medical cost per patient per year drops by almost half over the next three years.

In a tough economic climate and constrained local and state budgets, Medicaid reform and coverage extension would mean that the unemployed, under-employed and uninsured would not have to postpone treatment of routine care that would lead them to eventually seek more intensive care in hospital emergency rooms.

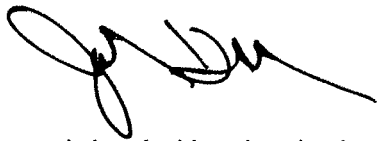
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Medicaid reform and coverage extension will overlay traditional delivery models with robust nursing care coordination and disease management programs as well as other critical support services that will translate into savings in the long term.

So, while the United States Supreme Court has left state policymakers with a choice, the debate in favor of a Medicaid reform and coverage extension is supported by the medical and fiscal benefits achieved through improved health insurance coverage. Medicaid reform and coverage extension is a sound investment in Virginia's future and one that the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce supports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Hornbeck, Jr.', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

John A. Hornbeck, Jr. CCE
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc. The Honorable Members of the Hampton Roads General Assembly Delegation
David Bernd, CEO Sentara Healthcare
Robert F. Guanci, President & CEO Chesapeake Regional Medical Center
William B. Downey, President & CEO Riverside Health System
Jim Dahling, President & CEO Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters
Michael Kerner, CEO Bon Secours Health Hampton Roads