



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Virginia – Health Care Expansion

We are here on behalf of The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Virginia. We are a statewide organization of Unitarian Universalists working for change. Unitarian Universalist Principles guide us in creating a more just world by being an active voice in the public arena.

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism guide our advocacy by supporting bills that ensure the inherent worth and dignity of every person are upheld and that there is justice, equity, and compassion with a goal for peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Ensuring Virginians have access to high quality and affordable healthcare is a priority.

We agree with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy regarding their stand on the Expansion of Healthcare:

“Virginia would greatly benefit from expansion of Medicaid. Providing services for the uninsured is more costly than giving them the resources they need through Medicaid. Without insurance, these individuals put off preventative medical care and treatment for existing conditions in the hopes of saving money. This results in emergency room visits and needless physical, emotional, and financial costs for people without insurance. The Virginia Hospital & Health Care Association, the Medical Society of Virginia, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and many labor groups agree that it is time to close the coverage gap. In order to qualify for Virginia Medicaid, a person must make no more than 33% of the federal poverty line. This leaves roughly 250,000 Virginians without any medical coverage. Most of the people who have been left in the coverage gap are working. They earn too much to qualify under Virginia’s current Medicaid rules but private insurance is too expensive for them to afford. The federal government is prepared to provide additional Medicaid funding under the Affordable Care Act.

Indeed, most of the direct support professionals who provide care to people receiving Medicaid funded Waiver services fall within the insurance coverage gap. If these folks had access to dependable health care, not only would it benefit their lives, but it would increase their job dependability, and, in this way, improve the stability of services they provide to our most vulnerable citizens – an important multiplier for the state at this critical time of competing demands.