

Does Virginia expand Medicaid or not?

The VA Senate is telling us it's the Christian thing to do and it's the law of the land. The VA House is telling us that the Federal Government can't be trusted to provide the promised money and that Medicaid needs to be audited with reforms implemented and proven to work before expansion should even be considered. Well, let's consider this dilemma. One argument for expansion is that VA should get back the taxes they send to Washington. However, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, VA sends 65 billion dollars in taxes to DC and receives 136 billion back in aid, grants, contracts, and spending. So how can it be said that if we don't expand Medicaid then the other states will get our Obamacare tax dollars? The VA Senate says that we can take back our decision to expand Medicaid if the Feds renege on their promised money. But that statement fails to recognize that the Federal Government has maintenance-of-efforts requirements that prevent states from dropping Medicaid patients. Recent studies have shown that a large portion of the population that's intended to receive Medicaid Expansion currently has insurance coverage through their employers. Thus Medicaid Expansion will wind up replacing the higher quality, employer-based health insurance coverage for hundreds of thousands of Virginians. Those few remaining already receive quality care at free clinics. In the VA House budget bill those clinics will have their funding doubled. So, to the VA Senate I say that the Christian thing to do is to teach a man how and why to fish, not give him the fish and "it's the law of the land" when the Obama Administration says it is. They have delayed it, ignored it, or waved it whenever it benefits them politically. I guess the law really did have to pass first in order for everyone to see what was in it. Now that it has everyone is finding out that the whole thing smells like dead fish. Let's pass a clean budget now and continue to consider Medicaid Expansion cautiously before proceeding.