

# Action Alert

## ***We Support Medicaid Expansion and Reforms Without Delay!!***

Contact these Budget Conferees and let them know why we support the Senate Amendment rather than the House!

The House amendment on Medicaid requires months (years?) of changes to the Medicaid program and also requires new legislative action after all reforms are completed.

The Senate amendment calls for federal approval of the more narrow list of reforms, and permits the expansion at that time. So the Senate would allow expansion could go forward while the reforms are further planned and implemented.

**In addition to the conferees, please also contact the Governor about your support of the Senate's approach. We need the Governor to (1) support the Medicaid expansion, and (2) support the Senate's amendment as the best way to proceed.**

From our HAV (Healthcare for All Virginians) Coalition Partners:  
The 2013 Budget Conferees have been appointed:

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Sen. Charles Colgan [district24@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district24@senate.virginia.gov) (804) 698-7524  
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Sen. Thomas Norment [district03@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district03@senate.virginia.gov) (804) 698-7503  
Sen. Janet Howell [district32@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district32@senate.virginia.gov) (804) 698-7532  
Sen. Emmett Hanger [district24@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district24@senate.virginia.gov) (804) 698-7524  
Sen. John Watkins [district10@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district10@senate.virginia.gov) (804) 698-7510

**The approach in the Senate budget is the correct and smart way to proceed to:**

Gain federal approval for important reforms and innovations for the newly eligible population;

Move forward, after federal approval of the reforms, to provide coverage for up to 400,000 uninsured Virginians;

Secure \$2 billion / year in federal funding (our federal tax dollars) for Virginia's healthcare sector, 30,000 jobs, economic development, and new state tax revenues;

Save millions in state dollars being spent now on state/local health programs;

Protect those state savings for state innovations and future state financial obligations.

**On the other hand, the House Budget unnecessarily delays expansion. It:**

Conditions expansion on a long list and "3 phases" of complicated Medicaid reforms that could take years to implement;  
Requires the above reforms to be "completed" before the legislature could then take separate action to expand Medicaid.

**Delaying expansion beyond January 2014 costs Virginia millions:**

\$5 million /day of lost federal funding;  
\$370,000/day of lost state savings that would come from reductions in state health expenditures that could be covered with federal funding;  
\$110,000/day in tax revenues from new health sector jobs that would be created by the federal funding.

**400,000 uninsured Virginians and Virginia's economy  
cannot afford to wait!**

**Support the Senate budget language for Medicaid reform  
and extension!**

**Remember that YOU are Democracy in Action! Make a phone call  
or send an email NOW!**