



YOU ARE BEING DENIED YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE

I am writing to you, one of the 400,000 hard-working citizens of Virginia who is being denied health insurance by the Republican state politicians. You are eligible for coverage through the expansion of Medicaid. That is the part of The Affordable Care Act designed to cover those who **EARN TOO MUCH TO GET TRADITIONAL MEDICAID BUT NOT ENOUGH TO AFFORD EXPENSIVE PRIVATE INSURANCE.** The Supreme Court ruled that the ACA is Constitutional, but that states can reject the money to pay for your coverage.

Even though the federal government will pay 100% of the cost for the first three years and 90% thereafter, 24 states—all Republican controlled—have blocked Medicaid expansion that would benefit you and 5.7 million other eligible Americans who need this insurance. You have heard a lot of rumors and outright lies telling you how terrible this law is for you. Don't believe them. It is a God-send. This law helps keep you healthy—even saves your life. Here are the facts:

Our health care system is broken. The costs for doctor visits, hospital stays, needed drugs have spiraled out of control. If you cannot afford insurance to cover these costs you are left to our “pay or die” system. You must trust to luck that you will stay healthy. You have only one way to get care—go to the emergency room at the hospital. If you are really sick or hurt you can get free care no matter what hospital it is. That is the law, passed under President Ronald Reagan.

The ACA says it doesn't make sense to DENY you the dignity and safety of regular doctor visits and treatment. Why make you wait until your suffering is intense and you have no choice but to go to a crowded emergency room? By then your illness may no longer be curable and the cost is far greater. This is cruel and it wastes money. Further, many hospitals are going broke because they have no way to recoup the cost of emergency room treatment for those without health insurance. More jobs are created when we all use health care. In Virginia the economy is losing \$5 million per day by keeping you from having health insurance! That doesn't even make sense as business.

Once each year residents of Southwest Virginia flock to a free clinic set up with volunteer doctors and nurses, who also treat people without doctors in third-world countries. In a “Letter to the Editor” at the Washington Post Denise A. Smith of Rocky Gap, Virginia says, “This health-care fight between the two parties is killing more Americans than any terrorist group could.”

Democrats who wrote the law did not want you to ever again worry about seeing a doctor. Republicans are blocking your right to good health care. Persons in other states that accepted Medicaid expansion are now enjoying good health care while you are denied coverage. It is not fair.

Our Governor, Terry McAuliffe, all Democrats, and a few Republicans in the state legislature are committed to working out a plan that will give you the insurance you need. **IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO BE HEARD. YOUR LIFE IS AT STAKE. MARCH, VOTE—UNTIL YOU GET YOUR INSURANCE.**