



Issue: Medicaid

<p style="text-align: center;">12 MYTHS USED BY REPUBLICANS WHEN THEY REFUSE TO EXPAND MEDICAID</p>
--

MYTH #1: It is fiscally irresponsible to expand Medicaid.

- Nonsense. The federal government will cover the vast majority of Medicaid expansion costs. Even when the federal government reimbursement drops to its lowest level in 2020, the federal government will cover 90% of the costs.

MYTH #2: Expanding Medicaid would ‘steal’ money from other priorities.

- On the contrary. Expanding Medicaid will provide cost savings and increased revenue that will help pay for other priorities. Many health care costs that are now being paid for by the General Fund would be covered by federal funds under Medicaid expansion (e.g., FAMIS program for certain populations, inmate inpatient hospital services). This will result in significant cost savings for Virginia.

MYTH #3: Virginia will not save money by expanding Medicaid.

- Virginia would save money from a variety of programs now paid by the General Fund which would be covered with federal money under Medicaid expansion.

MYTH #4: Virginia already does a good job taking care of needy citizens.

- Absolutely not true. Virginia ranks 48 out of 50 states. Only 2 states invest less per resident in their Medicaid program.

MYTH # 5: Health care providers accepting Medicaid will shift their costs to privately insured patients who will see their insurance premiums go up.

- It’s just the opposite! Insurance premiums for privately insured consumers have *already* been elevated because health care providers have had to cover their costs for caring for the uninsured. If more residents were covered under Medicaid expansion, the reduction in uncompensated care would *reduce* premiums.

MYTH #6: Medicaid is not as fiscally efficient as private insurance companies.

- Medicaid is very efficient. Between 2007-2013, the growth in per person cost was much lower in Medicaid (3.1%) than in the private insurance market (4.6%).

MYTH # 7: There is a shortage of doctors who accept Medicaid patients

- Seven out of 10 doctors in Virginia are accepting new Medicaid patients.

MYTH #8: Patients do not get good health care under Medicaid.

- Medicaid coverage of uninsured patients leads to declines in infant and child mortality rates and long-term health and educational gains for children.

MYTH # 9: Medicaid expansion doesn’t really improve healthcare outcomes.

- Not true! A recent study of Medicaid expansion in Kentucky shows that residents who gained coverage are getting health care and becoming healthier.

MYTH #10: Expanding Medicaid continues to promote a ‘culture of dependency.’

- The majority of people who would be newly eligible for coverage are working: 70% of the uninsured live in families with at least one full- or part-time worker.

MYTH #11: It’s better to wait to see what happens to the ACA.

- Every year we wait we lose money! The federal government currently is paying 95% of costs for patients newly covered through Medicaid expansion.

MYTH #12: We must focus solely on cost.

- We must look at the whole picture. Health insurance: improves financial health, controls costs, reduces the death rate, creates jobs and provides for a healthier, more productive workforce that will enable us to grow our state economy.