



March 4, 2016

To Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

This session marks the **4th year** that you have refused to meet the health care needs of up to 400,000 low income Virginians. During that time you have also forfeited over \$3.5 billion available for Virginia to provide real health insurance for your constituents.

The 100+ organizations in the Healthcare for All Virginians (HAV) coalition adamantly believe Virginia should join 31 other states and D.C. to close its coverage gap. We have provided you with information about the benefits, costs, and savings related to this coverage. We have shared with you actual stories of people in the gap who are suffering because they can't get the health care they need.

These are people who need your help to be healthy and productive. Many of them face enormous obstacles. Their health care needs are often urgent. The financial consequences of not having coverage are also devastating for many.

The large majority of uninsured individuals are in working families, with many of them contributing to the most important sectors of Virginia's economy. A **healthy workforce** is essential to Virginia's future.

Your continued inaction means Virginia – among the wealthiest of states – will continue to have a huge population of uninsured citizens, at a time when our neighboring states are seeing historic gains in coverage. **This is unacceptable.**

“Access to care” has been cited as a desired goal in many of your discussions this year about mental health, substance abuse, and COPN. We are confident there are ways for you to address all these issues in a comprehensive manner. There are efficient and cost-effective strategies to make a real difference in the lives of your constituents who are low income and uninsured.

The HAV Coalition urges you to put politics aside and do what's best for the hundreds of thousands of low income adults in Virginia who need health insurance. If you do that, we firmly believe there is a way to develop a **unique Virginia solution** to address this problem.

You can and **must** do better. This issue is not going away, until – together – we find a Virginia solution that provides healthcare to **ALL** Virginians.

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OVER 100 VIRGINIA ORGANIZATIONS URGE THE STATE TO CLOSE THE COVERAGE GAP!

AARP Virginia	Mental Health America – New River Valley	Virginia Assn. of Centers for Independent Living
American Assn. of University Women of Virginia	National Alliance on Mental Illness of Virginia	Virginia Assn. of Community Psychiatric Nurses
American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network	National Assn. of Social Workers – Virginia Chapter	Virginia Assn. of Community Services Boards
American Heart Association	National MS Society – Virginia Chapters	Virginia Assn. of Free and Charitable Clinics
Arlington County	National Osteoporosis Awareness Health (NOAH) Project USA	Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation
Arlington Free Clinic	National Physicians Alliance – Virginia New Virginia Majority	Virginia Chapter of Doctors for America
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center	Nonprofit Virginia	Virginia Chapter, National Organization for Women
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals	Northern Virginia Family Service	Virginia Civic Engagement Table
Bon Secours Virginia	NOVA ScriptsCentral	Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)
Brain Injury Assn. of Virginia	Nueva Vida	Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness
Celebrate Healthcare	Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Patient Services, Inc.	Virginia Community Healthcare Association
Central Virginia Health Services	Parents as Teachers State Office Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU	Virginia Consumer Voices for Healthcare
Chesapeake Care, Inc.	Piedmont Access to Health Services, Inc. (PATHS)	Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners
CHIP of Virginia	Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic	Virginia Counselors Association
City of Alexandria	Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia	Virginia Elder Rights Coalition
Cornerstones, Inc.	Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads	Virginia First Cities
Coverage Counts	Prevent Child Abuse Virginia	Virginia Health Care Foundation
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	ProgressVA	Virginia Hemophilia Foundation
Virginia Beach Alumnae Chapter	Rappahannock Legal Services, Inc.	Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Independence Center	Rappahannock United Way, Inc.	Virginia Latina Advocacy Network
FACETS	Richmond Orthopedics	Virginia March of Dimes
Fan Free Clinic	Rx Partnership	Virginia Medical Legal Partnership
Free Clinic of the New River Valley	SEIU – Virginia 512	Virginia Network of Private Providers
Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic	Social Action Linking Together (SALT)	Virginia Oral Health Coalition
Greene Care Clinic	The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis	Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS (VORA)
H.E.A.L.T.H. NOW, Virginia	The ARC of Virginia	Virginia Organizing
HealthWorks for Northern Virginia	VCU – American Medical Student Assn.	Virginia Podiatric Medical Association
Hemophilia Assn. of the Capital Area	Virginia Adult Day Health Services Assn.	Virginia Poverty Law Center
Inova Health System	Virginia AFL-CIO	Virginia Public Health Assn.
Instructive Visiting Nurse Assn. (IVNA)	Virginia Assn. of Area Agencies on Aging	Virginia Retired Teachers Association
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington		Virginia Rural Health Association.
League of Women Voters of Virginia		Voices for Virginia’s Children
League of Women Voters, Richmond Metro Area (LMV-RMA)		Volunteers of America Chesapeake
Legal Aid Justice Center		
Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses		
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society		
Mental Health America of Virginia		

Contact us at havcare@gmail.com or visit us at www.havcoalition.org for more information.