



IT'S TIME! EXPAND MEDICAID!

Healthcare for Families and Those Who Need Mental Health Services!

On February 22nd the House of Delegates adopted the Appropriations Committee budget that **includes affordable health insurance for nearly 400,000 hardworking Virginians!** The vote was a very strong 69-31. This budget includes:

- \$3 billion of federal funding (our taxes already paid) that covers over 90% of the costs for the biennium.
- A hospital provider assessment to cover Virginia's costs.
- Direction to DMAS to submit a federal waiver request to include a work requirement (the Training, Education and Employment Opportunity program – TEE-OP), higher cost sharing (including premiums) for some of the newly eligible adults, and a premium assistance program for purchasing employer based or marketplace coverage. Different aspects of the waiver would have different exemptions.
- State fund savings of \$371 million resulting from expansion which are used for important state investments, including state employee raises, funding for public education and higher education, and supporting the state reserve fund.

In stark contrast, the Senate approved the Finance Committee budget that does not include expansion and actually removes over \$400 million in state savings which had been part of the introduced budget. An effort by Senator Janet Howell to add expansion through a floor amendment failed on a straight party line vote – 21-19.

Next step is the Budget Conference Committee which has the responsibility to negotiate a final budget proposal – a challenging task with the two chambers so far apart.

The HAV Coalition SUPPORTS the Coverage Expansion in the House Budget. It provides:

- Higher income eligibility for adults – e.g. a single adult with income under \$16,643/year, or parents in a family of three with annual income less than \$28,180.
- Greatly improved access to primary and preventive care, mental health services and treatment for opioid addiction.

The HAV Coalition believes any new rules about work should provide support to individuals without interfering with their access to health care. Most of the newly eligible adults live in families where someone already works, and those workers serve in important sectors of the state's economy – e.g. tourism, retail, and construction.

VIRGINIANS HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! CLOSE THE GAP IN 2018!

For more information: havcare@gmail.com, www.havcoalition.org