



## What's in Health Reform for Virginia

### **A Stronger Health Care System for the 7.8 Million Residents of Virginia**

- Despite our high per-capita income, Virginia ranks 23rd nationwide in the number of uninsured. More than one-million Virginians have been uninsured in Virginia during each of the past three years.
- Virginians continue to pay a higher percentage of premium costs for employer-provided insurance than workers in any other state in the country. The percentage of Virginians who get health insurance at work has steadily declined over the last decade — a trend that would continue without health reform.

### **Affordable Coverage Options for Virginians**

- Health care reform will ensure that the 1.2 million uninsured Virginians and 344,000 Virginians who purchase health insurance through the individual market have access to affordable health insurance options through state-based health insurance Exchanges.
- By reforming the insurance market and forcing insurance companies to compete for business through the Exchange, reform reduces family health insurance premiums by \$1,550 - \$2,210 for the same benefits, as compared to what they would be without health reform by 2016.
- Health reform provides tax credits for up to 684,000 Virginians to help make health insurance more affordable, bringing \$11.1 billion in premium and cost-sharing tax credits into Virginia during the first five years of the health insurance Exchange.
- Reform ensures immediate access to affordable insurance options for as many as 111,961 uninsured Virginians who have a pre-existing condition.
- Reform will provide access to Medicaid for 499,518 newly-eligible Virginians, and provide \$9.3 billion in federal funding for the cost of their coverage.

### **Affordable Coverage Options for Virginia Small Businesses**

- Small businesses make up 73.2 percent of all Virginia businesses, yet just 44.4 percent of these small businesses are able to offer health insurance to their employees.
- Starting this year, up to 93,400 Virginia small businesses will be eligible for tax credits for a percentage of their contribution to their employees' health insurance.
- 393,501 Virginians work for small businesses that will qualify for these tax credits.

### **Protecting Children in Virginia**

- Health reform prohibits insurance companies from excluding coverage of pre-existing conditions for the 1.8 million children in Virginia.

## **Strengthening Medicare for Virginia Seniors**

- Health reform improves Medicare benefits for the 1.1 million Medicare beneficiaries in Virginia.
- Each year, 190,000 Virginia seniors hit the Medicare Part D “donut hole.” Starting this year, seniors who hit this gap in their prescription drug coverage will receive a \$250 check, and the “donut hole” will be completely closed by 2020.
- Medicare beneficiaries in Virginia will see other improvements to the program, including a free, annual wellness visit and no cost for prevention services.
- By gradually moving toward a fairer payment system for private insurance companies who participate in Medicare Advantage, health reform will lower Medicare costs for the 934,000 Virginia seniors not enrolled in Medicare Advantage by as much as \$45 in premium costs each year.

## **Affordable Coverage Options for Virginia’s Young Adults**

- Starting this year, 768,778 young adults in Virginia will be able to stay on their parent’s insurance policy until age 26.
- In addition, once the health insurance Exchanges are operational in 2014, 1.2 million Virginians under age 30 will have access to less costly “catastrophic-only” health insurance plans. These plans will also be available to others who are exempt from the individual responsibility policy.

## **Job Creation**

- Slowing the growth rate of health care costs will make it more profitable for businesses to expand employment, leading to estimated job gains nationwide of 250,000-400,000 per year for the next decade as a result of health reform.
- For Virginia, this could mean 6,600 - 10,600 new jobs each year.

## **Support for Virginia Community Health Centers**

- Community health centers provide critical health care to Virginians, regardless of their ability to pay. Health reform makes an immediate and substantial investment in the 146 federally-funded health centers in Virginia.