

HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET

Budget Cuts On The Horizon And You Can Help...

The governor of Virginia recently recommended a cut to funding of the health care safety net by 50% in 2014. A cut of this magnitude will significantly affect the operation of Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services (GFCFS).

Currently, GFCFS receives about \$50,000 designated for health care services and pharmacy through state funds. That funding helps us deliver care to over 1000 uninsured individuals, Goochland neighbors, who, otherwise, would not have had access to care.

It's ten minutes of your time...We need you to contact your legislators asking them to support level funding (no cuts) in safety net funding for the next two years. Just ten minutes can make a tremendous difference for thousands of Goochland families.

Your help is as easy as **A, B, C & 1, 2, 3.**

A B C – Three (3) minutes to Prepare

A. Understand the Health Care Safety Net: It is the group of providers that organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other health-related services to uninsured, Medicaid and other vulnerable patients at substantially lower costs. To read more on this program, see below under "Health Care Safety Net."

B. Identify your Government Representative in the Virginia General Assembly: We have made this easy, by providing a list of Goochland County's representatives, "County Government Contacts" document. You can just focus in on the representatives in the House and Senate to keep it simple.

C. Grab a pen, some paper and an envelope: Yep, that's right. A handwritten letter will work best and just 2 to 3 paragraphs will suffice.

What should you say?

1 2 3 – Seven (7) minutes to Execute

1. Make it Personal: Think about how Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services has affected your life. Whether you work with GFCFS, utilize our services or are a part of the community we serve, your representative wants to know that you have a vested interest in the organization and understand what we do. Personal stories are great, no need for names or other identifying information, just talk about your experience.

2. Offer specifics: Feel free to use some specific data about how the cuts will affect GFCFS. You can quickly access that within the "Health Care Safety Net" info below. There is even a section of "Talking Points" at the bottom of that section.

3. Set-Up Your Letter - Here is a Sample Letter :

Mrs. Terry Smith
100 Main Street
Anytown, VA 23222

January 1, 2002



Dear Senator or Mr. or Mrs. (for Delegate) _____:
I am writing to you because I am concerned about _____ (issue you would like to talk about). I think _____.
Please vote for/against this measure when it comes before the Senate/House because _____.

Sincerely,
Terry
Mrs. Terry Smith

The Envelope:

Mrs. Terry Smith
100 Main Street
Anytown, VA 23222

The Honorable (Delegate/Senator's First and Last Name)
910 Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Make sure you include your name and address, so the rep knows you are a constituent. If you are not living in Goochland, you can use Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services address as the return address, P.O. Box 116, Goochland, VA 23063.

“HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET”

What is the Virginia Health Care Safety Net? The group of providers that organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other health-related services to uninsured, Medicaid and other vulnerable patients at substantially lower costs.

Facts

- It's expected that 300,000 Virginians living at 200% FPL or below will continue to be uninsured even after national health care reform is fully implemented in 2014 (VA health Care Foundation). That means there will be an additional 100,000 Virginians seeking health care from free clinics and community health centers than are currently being served.
- In Goochland, there is only one private provider who accepts Medicaid. Even after health care reform, we predict there will be many patients who continue to need our services.
- Last year, free clinics and community health centers cared for 198,000 uninsured Virginians. In Goochland alone, the clinic treated over 1,000 uninsured patients last year.
- The Virginia health care safety net is an excellent investment:
 - Free clinics use over 14,000 volunteers to provide \$6.00 in health care for every \$1.00 spent. At GFCFS, for every dollar received, the clinic is able to deliver \$7 in health care services.



- Community health centers employ 1,689 Virginians.
- The Virginia Health Care Foundation generates over \$11.00 in cash, health services, and other in-kind contributions for every \$1 expended.

Therefore, every state dollar cut from VA's health care safety net creates a negative effect in its capacity to treat patients. For GFCFS this means a \$25,000 cut in the annual budget. With our ability to leverage donations, this translates into a cut of \$175,000 worth of services!

Talking Points for your letter:

- Let your representative know that you are involved and you do vote.
- Please write out your letter instead of typing it. Your delegate is more likely to read it!
- GFCFS is the only source of medical, dental and mental health care for uninsured residents of Goochland County. The closest health care facility is over 30 miles away.
- Virginia's health care safety net (free clinics, community health centers, the VA Health Care Foundation) has been stretched beyond capacity as a result of the recession.
- A cut to the health care safety net would have devastating consequences for the tens of thousands of sick uninsured Virginians who rely on it for life saving treatments. Let your delegate know, what would you do if the clinic wasn't here?

"COUNTY GOVERNMENT CONTACTS"

Member Senate of Virginia – 22nd District

Capitol Office

Tom A. Garrett, Jr. - Republican

Senate of Virginia

P.O. Box 396

Richmond, VA 23218

Email: district22@senate.virginia.gov

Phone: (804) 698-7522

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Room No: 323

Legislative Assistant: George Goodwin, Robert D. Bradshaw

Member Senate of Virginia – 22nd District

District Office

Tom A. Garrett, Jr. - Republican

117 Lizzie Lane

Bumpass, VA 23024

(540) 223-3295



Member House of Delegates – 56th District

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(757) 719-0287

Member House of Delegates – 65th District

R. Lee Ware, Jr. – Republican
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