

# Mental health advocates call Medicaid expansion 'missing link' in coverage

BY MICHAEL MARTZ

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Two of the biggest issues of the General Assembly came together Wednesday as mental health advocates called expansion of health insurance coverage to the poor “the missing link” in reforming Virginia's mental health system.

An estimated 77,000 Virginians with mental illness -- half of them with serious conditions such as schizophrenia or bipolar -- do not have health insurance to pay for treatment, said Mira Signer, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

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