States Have Buyer's Regret on ACA Medicaid Expansion

Expanding Medicaid to low-income childless adults was not supposed to break the bank. Experts said enrollment would be relatively limited. So governors and state legislatures grabbed the billions in new funds and ignored the fact that the promise of 100% federal funding for the expansion lasts only until 2017.

Now enrollment in many of the 29 states is hundreds of thousands of people beyond projections. For example, Washington state, “beat its January 2018 sign-up goal in the first few months” of 2014. Under the law, states are not allowed to decrease Medicaid enrollment or they could lose the pre-Obamacare federal match in funding. Sometimes easy money should just be ignored.

“Why States Should Not Expand Medicaid,” Grace Marie Turner and Avik Roy, Galen Institute, May 1, 2013. Politico Pro week of May 11