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Date: 11/19/2015 3:14:25 PM
Subject: Emerson Rose Act

Chaney and Rob,

Hi! Hope you're doing well. I'm writing an article about the Emerson Rose Act for this weekend. It's a state law that Gov. Haley signed in 2013 that requires hospitals to screen newborns for heart defects before they go home. In 2014 – the first full year after the law became effective - there was a substantial drop in the number of infants in South Carolina that died due to heart defects. The director of research and planning at DHEC said he thinks the law may be responsible for this great news.

Heart defects have been the No. 1 cause of infant death in South Carolina for at least 20 years. In hard numbers, between 71 and 98 babies have died from heart defects every year since 1995 – with one notable exception. Last year, it dropped to 56.

It might be a long shot, but I thought Gov. Haley might want to weigh in. If I could talk to her on the phone, that would be awesome. I don't get to write happy health care stories very often (because there are so many problems related to health care!!!) and I thought this might be a good opportunity for her weigh in on something that she helped sign into law and which has clearly made a difference.

My deadline is 4 p.m. tomorrow. I can work with her schedule. I'd only need about five minutes on the phone.

Lauren

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