

From: wheeldogs@yahoo.com <wheeldogs@yahoo.com>
To:
Date: 3/1/2010 8:31:11 PM
Subject: Website email from Sandy Hanebrink

Dear Senator Kevin Bryant: When I read that the House Ways and Means Committee voted 17-7 for a bill, sending it to the floor for debate next month with the House budget plan cuts of \$47 million, or 28 percent, from the agency's budget and that it also means losing \$110 million in federal matching cash and stimulus money...I must plead with you to vote no in the Senate and send this back for reconsideration by offering a Senate version that does not make the state of health care in SC worse. I know you know first hand the issues facing people each day to get needed medication and DME. These type cuts are not the answer and again I must respectfully request that legislators look for other ways to amend the budget. I understand that budget cuts are necessary but not for funding that supports those who most need it and in many cases cannot fight for themselves to keep it from happening...that is really a cheap shot and unfair. Maybe looking at the TEFRA program and restricting benefits for children who come from households with greater than \$250,000 incomes until they reach a certain out of pocket level of expenses. Or looking at other areas in the budget other than health care would be more appropriate like putting a household limit on welfare benefits and tying benefits to seeking employment for those who are able or putting regulations on insurance companies who are driving health care costs up or reducing the support to the lottery or transferring lottery funds to other areas like these programs that are being cut. The world knows we have a health care crisis and this only makes it worse. Please be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Please help us move forward and not back to the dark ages of institutionalizing people with disabilities because with these cuts that is exactly what is happening. I am a person with a spinal cord injury that benefited from these programs and services and because of these programs, no longer has to rely on them. Please let others have the chance to achieve this quality of life too. And please help those who, because life has dealt them a tough hand, can survive with dignity only if these programs continue. Please help organizations like the SC Spinal Cord Injury Association continue their work to help people in SC with injuries adapt and get needed supports. Please do not vote to allow these cuts. Our lives depend on it. Thanks you for your time and attention to my request.

Sincerely, Sandy Hanebrink

Sandy Hanebrink
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