

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Dear Susanne Cooper,

*I am writing to you in behalf of me contacting Governor Nikki Haley and she had asked me to write to you to see if you can assist me in my request. I previously sent a package explaining my boyfriend's situation and my own. To make it simple to understand I will separate it on two different Privacy Act Release Forms. I will try to sum this up the best I can without it being so lengthy but I feel every detail is so important to get my point across.*

Vincent LaGreca

101 Keenan Orchard Drive

Mauldin SC 29662

609-577-0369

RE: Hearing for his disability in the state of South Carolina.

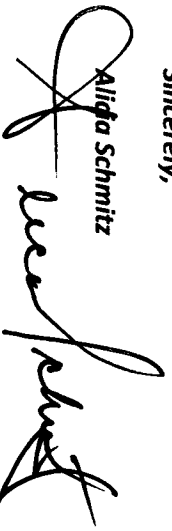
*My name is Alicia Schmitz, my boyfriend Vincent LaGreca, my daughter Brooke Schmitz and myself moved to SC just five months ago from NJ for a new start. My daughter is home bound because of disabilities as well as being bullied both in school and on the internet. I went through a divorce of 15 years in 2014, where he walked out of mine and our daughters' life after being in a relationship for 27 years. Then I found the man I wish I had met long ago we are truly, deeply in love and we are eventually going to get married. He had filed in NJ for disability and was denied. We retained a lawyer in NJ and were waiting on a hearing. After being denied we let him go figuring we are in SC now and we would get a local lawyer for his case here. We are waiting for a hearing date which can take up to a year. In NJ it works different and you can get Medicaid if you're not on disability and he was able to seek all doctors necessary. Here in SC we are finding out a lot of things don't work the same way. My boyfriend is very ill. In NJ no doctors were familiar or experienced with his condition and sent us to Penn Medicine in Philadelphia where he first got diagnosed for HHT. It is a rare blood disorder that affects 1-5000 people. Just by looking at him you would never know. Unless like most of the time he has tissues stuffed up his nose which cause him to have social phobia of going out anywhere no telling when a severe bloody nose can occur, depression, anxiety, low self esteem and feeling of worthlessness. A person with HHT has a tendency to form blood vessels that lack normal capillaries between an artery and a vein. This means that arterial blood under high pressure flows directly into a vein without first having to squeeze through very small capillaries. This place where an artery is connected directly to a vein tends to be a fragile site that can rupture and bleed. Now that it*

is seasonal allergies and he sneezes you can guarantee blood will pour out even when he takes a shower. Since we moved here we were able to see a lot of specialist who are familiar with this disorder and know the proper treatment that needs to occur for the rest of his life. The bills are just piling up, not to mention our finances since we moved here my alimony stopped and social security really is messing with my funds I was getting which I will explain on my complaint. He really needs to get in front of the judge for this hearing with his lawyer so he can get permanent disability. We had four doctors write him off already that he can never work again. It is a serious condition. We can't wait a year. We are losing everything we came so far to start over and start a new life. When moving here there were so many larger issues to look into not assuming the social security and Medicare and Medicaid would be so different then in NJ. We are pleading with you to see what you can do with Social Security to get him in front of a judge sooner. Our lawyer says she has 15 cases all pending and it could be till next year before the hearing. If we wait that long, and he gets his treatments cut off he can die. We really need them to see how serious his condition is and push this up as fast as they can. Now we aren't even making ends meet. We have to go to charities. We also have landlords that we should have researched before we moved in, having issues with them from the first month we moved here and every month since. We were never were late paying our rent and never broke any of the terms of our lease but yet have a court date for eviction on the 31<sup>st</sup>, the police records Norm Kuras and Wendy Lee our landlords are pages long. I can't wait to see what grounds they are evicting us on when I am the one who went to the police 3 times because of their harassment. We were moving away from drama to start all over again only for our situation to be worse. Not to get off the subject about Vincent. I will fill you in about what HHT is and also attach copies with this that might be of importance along with his lawyer's info since this is such a rare hereditary condition for 1 of 5000 people and looking at him like I said you can never tell until you ask him to stand for a long period of time or do anything physical you would never be able to tell. We need him to get disability that is backed owed now since August 2014 (the last time he had a job) and he filed for permanent disability in June 2015. We love this state, our new rental home and just want to live a life where we can all finally be happy. Please help Vincent get his case pushed up to be heard in front of a judge so he can get a monthly income and all the treatments needed and medications for all his depression, anxiety, social phobia that he needs so badly. We are so scared it can stop at any time and then I can't even think of what may happen. I appreciate it so much for taking the time to getting back to me. If we could just get his case heard our lives will change forever and I am hoping you can help us get there.

Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Alida Schmitz



Vincent LaGreca

