

January 4, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

During October I watched your daily appearances on television and applauded your efforts to pull together all of the available resources for the people of this State. That coordinated effort certainly made our concerns more manageable and gave us hope.

Thank you.

As I listened particularly to your expressions of appreciation to FEMA for the 75% reimbursement to local governments, for expanding the counties which were eligible for disaster relief and educating our citizens to get the maximum funds to which they were entitled, I repeatedly thought about one related issue. That is the healthcare, particularly for the disadvantaged children of this State, which would be available through Federal funds if Medicaid were expanded. In my mind when I compare the short term necessities resulting from the flooding to the long term benefits of a healthy population, I question why Federal money for short term relief is to be welcomed, but viewed with distain if those funds were used to support basic health care. I cringe every time I see another report reflecting South Carolina in the bottom ten states with respect to some issue of health care.

I ask that you consider looking again at some of the benefits which are available to the people of this State if we take the attitude that the Federal government is our partner and not an evil force.

Sincerely,



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