

**From:** Catherine McNicoll <[CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov)>  
**To:** Danny Varat <[DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov)>  
**Date:** 3/9/2018 2:32:45 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Opiates hoop la

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Danny, Kay spoke to her, it was more that the constituent wanted to complain to the Lieutenant Governor about overall drug/ prescription policy rather than something specific that we could help with.

*Best Regards,*  
*Catherine McNicoll*  
*Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs*  
*Lieutenant Governor's Office*  
*[CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov)*  
*803-734-5292 (phone)*

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**From:** Hightower, Kay [<mailto:khightower@aging.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2018 1:48 PM  
**To:** Catherine McNicoll  
**Cc:** Wolf, Anne  
**Subject:** RE: Opiates hoop la

Hi Catherine-

I just got off the phone with Mrs. Slager. Please call when you get a minute and I will fill you in. Kay

Kay Taylor Hightower, Esquire  
Program Manager  
South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging  
1301 Gervais Street, Suite 350  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone 803-734-9903, Fax 803-734-9886  
[khightower@aging.sc.gov](mailto:khightower@aging.sc.gov)

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**From:** Catherine McNicoll [<mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2018 9:03 AM  
**To:** Hightower, Kay  
**Cc:** Wolf, Anne  
**Subject:** FW: Opiates hoop la

Kay, Below is an email from a constituent who is having an issue finding a doctor and also appears to have an issue with medicare. Would our office or her AAA be able to help at all? Thank you for your help.

*Best Regards,*  
*Catherine McNicoll*

*Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
CatherineMcNicol@SCStatehouse.gov  
803-734-5292 (phone)*

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From: Danny Varat  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2018 6:43 AM  
To: Catherine McNicoll <[CatherineMcNicol@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicol@scstatehouse.gov)>  
Subject: Re: Opiates hoop la

Send to office on Aging to help her find a doctor.

Sent using OWA for iPhone

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From: Catherine McNicoll  
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 4:28:42 PM  
To: Danny Varat  
Subject: RE: Opiates hoop la

Danny, you never responded. Please advise.

*Best Regards,  
Catherine McNicoll  
Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
CatherineMcNicol@SCStatehouse.gov  
803-734-5292 (phone)*

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From: Catherine McNicoll  
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:36 AM  
To: Danny Varat <[DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov)>  
Subject: FW: Opiates hoop la

Pls advise

*Best Regards,  
Catherine McNicoll  
Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
CatherineMcNicol@SCStatehouse.gov  
803-734-5292 (phone)*

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From: Linda Slager [<mailto:lslager20@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 8:00 PM  
To: Lt. Governor's Office <[LtGov@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:LtGov@scstatehouse.gov)>  
Subject: Opiates hoop la



I lived in Honea path for 20 years, now live in Hodges, SC and did shop your pharmacy many times...

I wrote to Tim Scott and he didn't understand what I was saying...wrote to Lindsey Graham and he got my point slightly...was not impressed with their response...

Being a Pharmacist , maybe you can understand...

I am a 68 year old woman, who has returned to South Carolina after a 2 year absence and cannot find a doctor here because I have been on Tramadol for 8 years due to Spondylothesis and sciatic nerve compression.

I live in moderate to severe pain daily. I have tried cortisone shots in my back as well as two nerve block immunizations —all to no avail, after many other drugs... what helped give me some sort of a functional life, is taking 6 Tramadol a day (under the permitted 8 daily dose)

"(Chronic pain patients) are being singled out on a daily basis for something that other people have abused,"  
."Those of us who have legitimate conditions, why are we being treated differently?"

Tramadol, as you know is not a true opiates and was never a controlled substance until four years ago..  
Again because of abuse of others...

I HAVEN'T ABUSED THE DRUG!

I HAVE NEVER TAKEN MORE THAN WHAT WAS PRESCRIBED

SINCE TRAMADOL WENT TO CONTROLLED DRUG I NEVER TAKE A PAPER PRESCRIPTION IT IS ALWAYS ORDERED THROUGH MY INSURANCE MAIL ORDER)

With all the hoopla about opiates misuse I am being treated as a JUNKIE, not a patient with chronic pain!.

It is easier to go and buy heroine and oxy on the street than get a legitimate prescription for Tramadol!

Exceptions need to be made and mentioned about these exceptions for legitimate chronic pain that is documented in our charts. It is not fair to include us in this category when there is NO other drugs on the market for chronic pain. You can't take aspirin everyday nor ibuprofen , or acetaminophen. Etc daily what else is there???? But tramadol or opiates.

Linda Slager 864-245-2551 [lslager20@gmail.com](mailto:lslager20@gmail.com)

P.S. Other issue...I wanted to return to my doctor of 20 years and he would NOT take me back because he wasn't accepting Medicare patients even with Medicare advantage Insurance??? Can doctors refuse medicare patients?



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