

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Miles</i>	DATE <i>12-22-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100334</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cc: M.S. Fortner</i> <i>Close per Emma, see attached note.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>1-6-09</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.	<i>1/5/09</i>		
2.			
3.			
4.			

*Neither of these need an answer
Per Emma*



Richard A. Schmitt, MD
President

John G. Black, MD
President-Elect

South Carolina Medical Association

Voice of One. Power of Many.

Marshall L. Meadors, III, MD
Secretary

Dale R. Gordineer, MD
Treasurer

Gregory Tarasidis, MD
Chairman of the Board

Todd K. Atwater, JD
Chief Executive Officer

P.O. Box 11188 • Columbia, SC 29211-1188

(803) 798-6207 • 1-800-327-1021

Fax: (803) 772-6783

www.scmamnet.org

December 17, 2008

RECEIVED

DEC 22 2008

Col. Emma Forkner, Director
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Director Forkner,

It is with grave concern that we write to you again on the heels our state's third series of debilitating budget reductions in several months. As was voiced at our November Board of Trustees meeting, in which we were honored to have you attend and address our leadership, the entire medical community is crumbling under the burden of these latest legislative directives.

We remain extremely grateful for the protection provider rates received via proviso from additional cuts in the revised state budget passed in October. However, the difficult position you hold in executing these orders to accommodate a loss of roughly \$459million in operating funds and lost Federal match dollars from within your agency is certainly not lost on our leadership or the physicians our association represents. Regrettably, we are all being forced on varying levels to make the most challenging decisions during what is truly a state of emergency in South Carolina's healthcare.

It is with this empathy that we ask for your continued support to shield the current provider rates of Medicaid reimbursement from further reduction and to help us further protect and serve our most vulnerable and disadvantaged patients.

As you well know, patient access to care is already being affected statewide and will continue to drop as many providers are unfortunately being forced to end their acceptance of Medicaid patients. In addition to your efforts, we will continue to alert the Legislature of the dire condition of our state's healthcare, the strain on the physician/patient relationship being no exception, and urge members to reinstate provider protection language as they begin to craft the 2009-2010 appropriations bill.

As always, thank you for your thoughtful consideration and please let us know if we may be of assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Schmitt, MD

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard A. Schmitt".

President
South Carolina Medical Association

Gregory Tarasidis, MD

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gregory Tarasidis".

Chairman, Board of Trustees
South Carolina Medical Association

John G. Black, MD

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President-Elect
South Carolina Medical Association

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

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TO <i>Hips</i>	DATE <i>12-22-08</i>
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

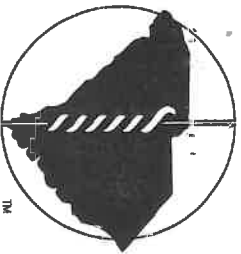
ACTION REFERRAL

To be filed -

TO <i>Full Back - will handle</i> <i>Miles</i>	DATE <i>12-22-08</i>
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