

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

**ACTION REFERRAL**

<b>TO</b>  <i>Jacobs</i>	<b>DATE</b>  <i>9-16-08</i>
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------

<b>DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>
<b>1. LOG NUMBER</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"><i>200148</i></div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature <b>DATE DUE</b> <i>9-23-08</i>
<b>2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>C: CJ</i>  <i>Cleared 10/13/08, letter attached.</i> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA <b>DATE DUE</b> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action <b>DATE DUE</b> _____

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

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

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<b>DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>
1. LOG NUMBER  <i>250148</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>9-23-08</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>C: [Signature]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

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

LINDSEY O. GRAHAM  
SOUTH CAROLINA



290 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5972

## UNITED STATES SENATE

September 12, 2008

Ms. Emma Forkner  
Director  
SC Department of Health and Human Services  
PO Box 8206  
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

RE: Ms. Barbara Berger  
SSN: 109-40-6333

Dear Ms. Forkner:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence I have received from the above named constituent. I believe you will find it self-explanatory.

Your reviewing this material and providing any assistance or information possible under the governing statutes and regulations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsey", written over a horizontal line.

Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator

**RECEIVED**

SEP 16 2008

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

LOG/lt

Enclosure

Please reply to: Senator Lindsey Graham  
530 Johnnie Dods Boulevard, Suite 202  
Mt Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

508 HAMPTON STREET  
SUITE 202  
COLUMBIA, SC 29201  
(803) 933-0112

401 WEST EVANS STREET  
SUITE 2268  
FLORENCE, SC 29501  
(843) 669-1505

101 EAST WASHINGTON STREET  
SUITE 220  
GREENVILLE, SC 29601  
(864) 250-1417

530 JOHNNIE DODDS BOULEVARD  
SUITE 202  
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464  
(843) 949-3887

140 EAST MAIN STREET  
SUITE 110  
ROCK HILL, SC 29730  
(803) 366-2828

136 EAGLES NEST DRIVE  
SUITE B  
SENECA, SC 29678  
(864) 888-3330

## AUTHORIZATION FORM

I hereby authorize United States Senator Lindsey O. Graham to receive any information from agencies pertaining to my request below. This authorization is in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974.

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT BELOW.)

Name: Barbara Bergof Phone: 843-486-6161

Address: 4451 Redson Rd., Apt. 32

City: Madison State: SC Zip: 29456

Social Security Number: 109-40-16333 VA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, briefly describe the problems that you are experiencing and explain exactly what you would like Senator Graham to do on your behalf. Without this information, it will be impossible for Senator Graham to adequately assist you. (If you need more space, please use the back of this form or an additional piece of paper.)

Approve Section 8 so that I and my Grandchildren  
 can live in a safer environment that I can afford.  
 Stop the IRS from garnishing my SSI check -  
 I have been in constant contact via phone + in person  
 to reinstate my Medicaid until I am able to apply  
 for Medicare under the SSI health program. Assist  
 me with legislation to adopt grandchildren.

Signature: Barbara Bergof Date: 9/10/08

Please return form to:

U.S. Senator Lindsey O. Graham  
 530 Johnnie Dods Boulevard, Suite 202  
 Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

September 8, 2008

Tammy C. Davis  
109 Ashford Circle  
Summerville, SC 29485  
843-810-0456

- Page One -

Via Facsimile: 843-971-3669

843-971-3669

5 Pages Included

Dear Senator Graham:

I am writing on behalf of my friend, Barbara Berger, a 59 year old woman and widow in ill-health, yet raising her three grandchildren ages 9, 7 and 4 years old. Their parents have chosen drugs and street-life over them and Barbara would rather die than be without them.

Barbara has scratched and clawed for every bit of government help available and received some. What blessings they have been! It seems, however, every step forward means four steps back. Just four or five months ago, because of her health problems (too many to mention here) she was awarded Social Security Benefits. The IRS, being the hounds that they are, began garnishing her SS checks as soon as they found out about her award. They claim that it's because several years ago when her husband was alive, their home was foreclosed on and funds were distributed to them upon that foreclosure; the IRS is claiming they received a 1099 from the mortgage company for \$17,000, which is being classified as earned income. The Bergers never received any money. What homeowner receives funds on a foreclosure, anyway? The IRS is claiming she owes \$2,400 and each month is garnishing one-half of her \$1,300 per month award. This is being addressed and disputed at the federal level. At any rate, because this is on her record, her Medicaid benefits have been taken away because it is claimed she owes a federal debt. A woman who lives day-to-day on what very little she has and the government wants her measly \$2,400 - an amount that could make or break a medical procedure or at least medications to give her more time to be with her grandchildren and find someone to raise them if she is not able to complete that task. Among the many illnesses she has, just two weeks ago she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She received a phone call today with the threat of eviction from a complex that should have been condemned long ago! The conditions are deplorable! She is scared to death!

PLEASE! I am PLEADING for your intervention on Barbara's and her grandchildren's behalf. This country seems to be willing to give freely to illegals and pay women to push out babies every year, providing them with anything they need if they just show up at a government office with a sad look and/or five or six children following.

Barbara has lived in this country all of her life and paid taxes into the system from the time she was of age to work until several years ago when she had no choice but to give her time to her small grandchildren. She and others like her are the ones to whom the government should be giving so freely.

THIS is what I am asking for on her behalf:

1. She is number six on the waiting list for Section 8 housing and has been for quite some time. PLEASE do whatever it takes to get her housing now before she is evicted with three grandchildren by shrnlords that don't care about anyone but themselves. She has been in constant touch with those in the system who keep saying "there's no money". Someone she

Tammy C. Davis  
109 Ashford Circle  
Summerville, SC 29485  
843-810-0456

- Page Two -

knows just got their housing and they were further down the list than she is. She is trying to get into Planters Retreat Apartments in Ladson, South Carolina, who accepts Section 8, so her grandchildren can remain in the same school district. They have been so traumatized by the events in their lives that she wants as much stability and consistency for them as possible.

2. PLEASE do whatever it takes to get her Medicaid reinstated immediately so she is able to receive treatment and medications for the various illnesses, including surgery and follow-up treatment for the thyroid cancer.

3. If you have any connections with the federal system to stop the garnishing of Barbara's SS checks, PLEASE use them. She simply cannot afford another penny taken.

I know so many times your hands are tied when it comes to issues that face us all...But, PLEASE, take time for Barbara. SHE HAS NO TIME TO SPARE. I will be more than happy to supply her address and telephone number if you would like to speak with her personally.

I know that YOU know very well the conditions of which I speak but, I have attached a Statehouse Report that speaks to the poverty issue...and these figures were in 2005! How far have we sunk since?!

Thank you so much for your time and for your help!

Respectfully,

  
Tammy C. Davis

Department of Health & Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 4120  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8909



September 9, 2008

Ms. Emma Forkner, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Post Office Box 8206  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

Re: Pilot Request for the Quality Control Sample Period October 2008 – March 2009

Dear Ms. Forkner:

This letter is to inform you of our decision regarding your proposed Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) Pilot Project.

Your pilot proposal has been approved for the first six months of FY 2009. This approval covers the period of October 2008 through March 2009.

Based on our review of the proposal and any additional information provided by your staff, we have determined this initiative meets the objectives of the MEQC pilot program. Please note that workload equivalence must be maintained throughout the project. During the term of your approved pilot project, your error rate will be frozen.

Since the Regional Office is responsible for evaluating the results of each pilot, please forward any data or reports that you may have generated from these reviews that you believe may be beneficial to our assessment. We would appreciate submittal of the final report by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. We hope that the study will provide valuable information that can be used to prevent erroneous expenditures of Medicaid funds and to protect funds for those persons who are entitled to receive assistance.

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SEP 16 2008

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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Ms. Forkner

If you have any questions concerning these decisions, please contact Rita E. Nimmons of my staff at 404-562-7415 or via e-mail at [rita.nimmons@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:rita.nimmons@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Kaye Justis".

Mary Kaye Justis, RN, MBA  
Acting Associate Regional Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations

cc: Carolyn Roach

bc: Jessica Woodard, CMSO



*EFJ* # 0148 ✓

*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emma Forkner  
Director

October 13, 2008

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senate  
530 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Suite 202  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for contacting our agency on behalf of Ms. Barbara Berger concerning her healthcare needs and Medicaid eligibility.

A member of our staff has been in direct contact with Ms. Berger regarding Medicaid eligibility and the rules and regulations governing the program. We mailed her information on programs and organizations that may assist with prescriptions, inpatient hospitalization and daily living needs.

We appreciate your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/fjcole



*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emmie Fortner  
Director

Ms. Barbara Berger  
4651 Ladson Road, Apartment 30  
Ladson, South Carolina 29456

Dear Ms. Berger:

At the request of Ms. Tammy Davis, Senator Lindsey Graham asked our agency to assist you with your concerns about Medicaid eligibility and healthcare needs for you and your grandchildren.

Your coverage under Medicaid's Low Income Families program ends September 30, 2008, because your income exceeds the allowable monthly limit. We checked to see if you qualify under another Medicaid program, but unfortunately you are not eligible at this time.

Fortunately, Dustin, Gabrielle and Ian Carter, your grandchildren, will continue to receive benefits without a break in coverage through Medicaid's Partners for Healthy Children program. If you have any questions regarding their coverage, please call Ms. Kathleen Kavanaugh at 843-740-5917 and she will be happy to assist you.

An alternate health insurance option through AugoeBenefits offers a variety of health insurance plans from private insurance carriers. You may wish to look over the enclosed brochure and contact them at 1-866-273-5613 to see if they can assist you. We also enclosed information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare services, prescriptions, inpatient hospitalization, legal aid and daily living needs. Please call the contact number on each for more information.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any other questions about the Medicaid program, please contact Denise Epps in Constituent Services at (803) 898-2505 or call 1-888-549-0820, Ext. 2505, (toll-free) and she will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs  
Acting Deputy Director

AJ/cole  
Enclosures

Medicaid Eligibility and Beneficiary Services  
P.O. Box 8206 • Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206  
Phone (803) 898-2502 • Fax (803) 255-8235



*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emma Forkner  
Director

Ms. Tammy C. Davis  
109 Ashford Circle  
Summerville, South Carolina 29485

Dear Ms. Davis:

Senator Lindsey Graham asked our agency to respond to your letter to his office concerning Medicaid benefits for your friend, Barbara Berger.

Our agency has been in direct contact with Ms. Berger to assist with her healthcare needs and questions about Medicaid eligibility.

We appreciate you bringing your concerns regarding Ms. Berger's medical needs to our attention. If we may be of assistance in the future, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs  
Acting Deputy Director

AJ/cole