


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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Melons</i>	DATE <i>10-14-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>1001174</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Forlmer</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>10-23-09</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.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



RECEIVED

OCT 14 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

ANDRÉ BAUER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of South Carolina
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Post Office Box 142
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

October 8, 2009

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

Dear Mrs. Forkner:

I am writing for clarification as to your agency's position on FY 2010-11 funding for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program operated under the auspices of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.

Staff level interchanges indicate a policy change has been initiated by the Department of Health and Human Services that would result in the Office on Aging having to request funds heretofore contained in the DHHS budget. Specifically, we were instructed to "plan to phase-out this contract over a period of the next 2 fiscal years. It would be preferable if you made a budget request in your 2010-11 budget requests to cover the entire amount."

The Long Term Care Ombudsman had 7,022 complaints in 2008, a 20% increase from the year before. I am told that Medicaid patients make up as many as 75% of the residents in long term care facilities.

Also, please provide an update on the status of restoration of budget cuts made to the Long Term Care Ombudsman program. I was of the understanding that DHHS cuts were to be restored due to the advent of the enhanced Medicaid match.

I would very much appreciate an expedited response to these issues.

Sincerely,


André Bauer

cc: Speaker Bobby Harrell, Rep. Dan Cooper, Rep. Bryan White, Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Rep. Herb Kirsch, Rep. Tracy Edge, Rep. Walt McLeod, Rep. Denny Neilson, Sen. Ray Cleary, Sen. Hugh Leatherman, Sen. Thomas Alexander, Sen. Harvey Peeler, Sen. Glenn McConnell, Sen. Yancey McGill, Sen. Glenn Reese, Sen. Ray Cleary, Sen. Ronnie Cromer, Helen Ann Thrower, Tony Kester, Dale Watson, Frank Adams