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**Subject:** Draft Response to Bloomberg - Deadline is End of Day

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**Questions posed by Alan that he wants answered in 2-3 sentences:**

- 1) Why did SC opt to leave the waiver early when it could have, at minimum, qualified for a partial waiver beyond April 1?
- 2) Why does SC believe this will not adversely affect ABAWDs?

**Draft Response (may need to be tailored/cut back):**

Both before and after April 1, 2016, DSS and our partners have been committed to providing ABAWDs support and assistance with obtaining gainful employment. South Carolina, while under the waiver, established its own unique, but similar, work requirement policy and ABAWDs were only allowed to receive SNAP benefits if they were working or participating in South Carolina's mandatory SNAP Employment and Training program for 20 hours a week. If they did not comply, the department used progressive sanctions. Therefore, South Carolina's choice not to apply for a continued waiver will not significantly change what was already required of ABAWDs.

DSS and its partners offers employment and training programs in all 46 counties across the state designed to assist ABAWDs in obtaining additional education, training, and skills so they will qualify for a broader range of jobs and will ultimately be more successful in finding gainful employment. In addition, a new partnership between DSS and DEW will create a more robust education and training program, creating greater opportunities for ABAWDs to acquire new skills and find employment.

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