

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>1-15-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000361</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Deps, Ms. Fortner</i>			

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

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Children's Hospital

Log: Jacobs
cc Ms. Fortner
M/A
ups

January 10, 2008

RECEIVED

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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Center for Child Advocacy

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Charles P. Barry, Jr., M.D.
Executive Director

Meggie Michael
Director

Bena Hughes
Project Manager

Dear Mark:

RE: S-CHIP

I was distressed this morning to learn from the news that you are targeting the appropriation to expand S-CHIP in South Carolina. As you know, South Carolina has approximately 100,000 uninsured children. Our state has done a disservice to its citizens by waiting so long to address this issue, and we finally made progress last year when the legislature authorized an expansion of SCHIP. I believe that we have done a disservice to our citizens by delaying this expansion on a number of levels. First and foremost, we have denied cost-effective health insurance to our uninsured children. Second, we have left millions of dollars in federal matching funds in Washington – funds that, although intended for us, could be reassigned to other states. I can think of no better investment for our state dollars, both in terms of our children and the 4 to 1 match, so I am truly puzzled as to your reasoning.

It is our understanding that South Carolina will be able to use its federal carryover funds and unspent SCHIP allotment to go ahead with the legislatively approved SCHIP expansion. SC DHHS is in the final stages of obtaining approval from CMS for the required state plan amendment, and it is probable that enrollment will begin in the program within a few months. It would be morally objectionable, then, for our state government to cancel the health insurance of enrolled children after only a few months. These children will seek and receive services in our state's hospitals, public health departments, and through other safety net providers. These services will be funded by state and taxpayer dollars – without the benefit of federal dollars.

bcc: SC DHHS DLE



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Charles P. Darby, Jr., M.D.
Executive Director

Maggie Michael
Director

Dana Hughes
Project Manager

While I understand the need to control government spending, savings" is unconscionable and very short-sighted. There are surely many other opportunities to reduce spending. I urge you to reconsider the direction you are taking on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie

Charles P. Darby, Jr., M.D.
Professor Emeritus, MUSC Department of Pediatrics
Chairman, SC DHHS Medical Care Advisory Committee
Member, SC Children's Hospital Collaborative

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