

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Singleton / Amick</i>	DATE <i>10-28-13</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000152</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Keck, Post</i> <i>* Pill Mills in SC</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input checked="" 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.			



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

October 23, 2013

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2013

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Ronnie W. Cromer
The Senate of South Carolina
P. O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

The Honorable Kevin L. Bryant
The Senate of South Carolina
P. O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Gentlemen:

Thank you for your October 10, 2013, letter concerning Pill Mills in South Carolina. I appreciate your desire, as pharmacists, to protect the profession from unnecessary steps. I agree with your belief, as Senators, that the Pill Mill epidemic in South Carolina requires a comprehensive plan. That is why DHEC, DAODAS, LLR, the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Pharmacy, HHS, SLED, and a DEA task force consisting of local, state, and federal law enforcement officials have been working as much as a year to mount a comprehensive and thorough attack on Pill Mills in South Carolina.

As you are aware, South Carolina does not have the obvious Pill Mills plaguing other states. The great efforts of our local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies have driven those establishments out of business. We do have, however, a variety of different opportunities for improvement in the system that allow trade of controlled substances and support addiction. As a result, the above entities have teamed up to address the many issues in a variety of different ways.

For example, as you have already heard, the DEA task force made up local, state, and federal law enforcement officers and state law enforcement drug diversion inspectors from the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's office, SLED, and DHEC has been working statewide to crack down on the criminal offenders who use controlled substances for profit and ultimately to support addiction. The task force needs help, however, in identifying these offenders and the state of South Carolina has the ability and authority, as granted by the S.C. General Assembly, to exponentially improve law enforcement ability to identify and crack down on criminals in this state. The solution was simple and has been discussed for months with all the stakeholders. Law enforcement needs to have quick information when criminals fraudulently and criminally fill prescriptions by multiple doctors, in multiple pharmacies, across multiple counties. This is a behavior that is not individually apparent, but can be quickly identified when all the pharmacies report in at the end of the days they are open and dispensing controlled substances. Currently, the information is not available to law enforcement for an entire month. At which time, according to the prosecutors and the investigators, the criminal has long since gained from the crime and moved on to the next one. The evidence is stale or gone, and addictions continue.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Mills/Jarrett Complex • Box 101106, Columbia, SC 29211-0106 • 1751 Calhoun Street, Columbia, SC 29201 • www.scdhec.gov

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Letter to Sen. Cromer and Sen. Bryant
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Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you would like to discuss this further. You both have my cell phone number and I am always more than willing to meet with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Templeton".

Catherine B. Templeton

cc: Mark Keel, SLED
Tony Keck, HHS
Bob Toomey, DAODAS
Holly Pisarik, LLR
Daniel Johnson, Fifth Judicial Circuit
Louis Costa, DMD, MD, SC Board of Medical Examiners
Addison Livingston, SC Pharmacy Board
Richard Davis, Capitol Consultants



Mills/Jarrett Complex
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211

Return Service Requested

ANTHONY E. KECK, DIRECTOR
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. BOX 8206
COLUMBIA SC 29202

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OCT 28 2013

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR