

James A. and Tamah J. Jones
1627 Dacusville Hwy
Easley, SC 29640

December 29, 2014

Sen. Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20610

Senator Lindsey Graham,

We are in desperate need of your help for our daughter, Candace Rider. Our daughter, Candy, has been in a constant state of physical decline due to Multiple Sclerosis. She was diagnosed in 1999 along with her twin sister. It pains us to have to write this letter as a plea, but we are so discouraged and scared for her and her family as she has yet to be granted disability benefits through the Social Security Administration office. Candy is disabled with documentation from 2 certified Greenville County Physicians, and her paperwork has yet to be approved. After her diagnosis, she continued to attempt work at her best ability for an additional 9 years, but had to take multiple weeks of medical leave during that time for worsening MS symptoms. She eventually had to stop work completely due to her inability to complete the job in the textile field safely. She also tried to find another job that would allow better movement as to not exacerbate her MS symptoms, but had to stop work again. Without the ability to work, she and her family have struggled immensely. We have seen them lose their home, be unable to pay the basic utility bills, be unable to pay their basic medical bills and they currently live solely on her husband's meager income.

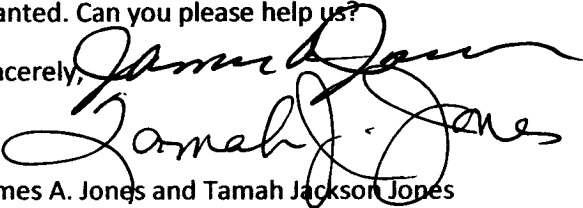
Since she could no longer work, she turned to a lawyer for assistance with the Social Security Administration process. **This was in 2011.** The reference number for her original filing is J63125. This lawyer, Mr. Hal W. Roach, then of the Ezell Law Firm in Greenville, SC, turned out to be unsuccessful due, in our opinion, to his ineffective assistance of counsel and unprofessionalism. In fact, the judge at the hearing to award disability benefits verbally reprimanded him for his lack of preparation of the case. It is no surprise, then, that the request for disability benefits was denied. We are also sending this letter to the South Carolina Bar so that the Bar understands the gravity of his ineffective assistance and the impact it has had on Candy's family.

The case was continued through Mr. Roach for several years – finally coming to an unsuccessful end in August of 2014. Candy was then told to refile her case for disability benefits – on her own – in order to have her case reviewed and, hopefully, have the benefits she is so deserving of be granted. She refiled the application for benefits on September 12, 2014, but unfortunately has not heard anything yet.

As a parent, seeing your daughter lose her independence, her daily health, her home, I'm sure you understand the grief we have experienced. Adding insult on top of injury, watching the person she hired to provide her legal advice and counsel fail her on every level has lessened our faith in the entire legal process. The grief of watching this play out on a daily basis for years has worn away at our very soul.

Candy and her twin sister grew up in Greenville, South Carolina and are lifelong upstate residents. My husband and I are lifelong South Carolinians and longtime residents of Pickens County. We are appealing to all of our representatives to help us assist her in getting the benefits that she so rightly deserves. She is suffering greatly and her condition is worsening on a daily basis. I know that a call from your office will help her paperwork find the right person who will be able to assist her and have her disability benefits granted. Can you please help us?

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is for James A. Jones and the second is for Tamah Jackson Jones. Both signatures are fluid and cursive.

James A. Jones and Tamah Jackson Jones

cc: Gov. Nikki R. Haley
South Carolina Representative Larry A. Martin
South Carolina Representative Dwight Loftis
South Carolina Representative James Mikell Burns
South Carolina Bar