

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Bowling</i>	<i>7-11-06</i>

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000054	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>7-18-06</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 7/17/06, letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <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.			

JOE WILSON

2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

HOUSE POLICY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COUNTIES:
AIKEN*
ALLENDALE
BARNWELL
BEAUFORT
CALHOUN*
HAMPTON
JASPER
LEXINGTON
ORANGEBURG*
RICHLAND*
(*PARTS OF)

JUL 10 2006

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
ERIC DELL
CHIEF OF STAFF

July 7, 2006

Mr. Robert M. Kerr
Director

SC Department of Health and Human Services
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

RE: Miss Heidi J. Helmick
18 Berryhill Drive, Apt. 4C
Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Mr. Kerr,

I am writing to you on behalf of the above named constituent who has contacted me regarding obtaining a scooter for her transportation. Enclosed is a copy of all correspondence for your perusal. Any assistance that you could offer would be most appreciated.

It is an honor to represent the people of the Second Congressional District, and I value your input.

Please respond to the Midlands District Office at 1700 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, South Carolina 29169; Fax number 803-939-0078. Thank you for your time and concern in this and all other matters.

Yours very truly,



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

JW/jmc
Enclosure

MIDLANDS OFFICE:
1700 SUNSET BLVD., (US 378), SUITE 1
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 7381
COLUMBIA, SC 29202
(803) 939-0041
FAX: (803) 939-0078

212 CANINON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20518-4002
(202) 225-2452
FAX: (202) 225-2455
E-MAIL: joe.wilson@mail.house.gov
WEBSITE: www.house.gov/joewilson

LOWCOUNTRY OFFICE:
903 PORT REPUBLIC STREET
P.O. BOX 1538
BEAUFORT, SC 29901
(843) 521-2530
FAX: (843) 521-2535

627191322A.txt

From: Web forms <webforms@heoc-www6.house.gov>
Date: 6/27/2006 7:08:34 PM
To: imasc02@mail.house.gov
Subject: IMA MAIL ON HE.MCAID

Dear Honorable Joe Wilson,
I am Heidi Helmick and I have mild Cerebral Palsy. I am 46 years old and living the best I can on my SSI. I need your assistance in dealing with Medicaid because they will not pay for a scooter but they say they will pay for a "power chair" which I do not need.

I need the scooter in order to get around independently here in Columbia, South Carolina. You see, this is vitally important to me as the recent federal law by Medicaid states that Aides can not transport their clients any longer to their errands and Doctor's appointments.

The scooter that I have now is very old and it is no longer working. Even though it may be just the batteries, and some kind of mechanism that needs to be replaced in the steering, it is not considered to be "street legal" and I have been stopped more than once because it does not have turning signals and headlights and reflectors like modern scooters have.

I do have a physician's prescription for the scooter, and I really do need it so please I beg you to find it in your heart to help me with Medicaid. I am trying to find a government grant in the hopes of being able to get one to pay for the scooter, but so far, I have not been able to find a thing.

If the Landlex Corporation will allow me to pay them \$75.00 a month for the scooter, I could probably find a way to do it but I confess that it will be a struggle to do so for the next two years as I am on SSI.

The irony is that if I was on Medicare, I would be able to get the scooter, but I am not 65, blind or worked for the Railroad. Medicare would help in a lot of ways but I can't get on it.

This is the only state that I know of that one can get a eye exam but not eyeglasses. I know that the times are tough, but isn't it reasonable to think if one can not pay for a eye exam, one can not pay for glasses either?

Please please find a way to help me. I need my scooter not only because I need to get places around Columbia, but I also hope to be able to return back to school to finish up my BA degree in History.

Thank you for at least reading my letter,

Sincerely,
Heidi J Helmick

18 Berryhill Drive Apt. 4C
Columbia, Sc. 29210
803-772-1849

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here =====

<APP>SCCMail
<PREFIX>Miss </PREFIX>
<FIRST>Heidi</FIRST>
<MIDDLE>J</MIDDLE>
<LAST>Helmick</LAST>
<SUFFIX></SUFFIX>
<ADDR1>18 Berryhill Drive Apt. 4C</ADDR1>
<ADDR2> </ADDR2>
<CITY>Columbia</CITY>
<STATE>SC</STATE>
<ZIP>29210</ZIP>

<ZIP4></ZIP4>
<ISSUE>HE.MCAID</ISSUE>
<EMAIL>a1uFa1@aol.com</EMAIL>

<MSG>

Dear Honorable Joe Wilson,
I am Heidi Helmick and I have mild Cerebral Palsy. I am 46 years old and living the best I can on my SSI. I need your assistance in dealing with Medicaid because they will not pay for a scooter but they say they will pay for a "power chair" which I do not need.

I need the scooter in order to get around independently here in Columbia, South Carolina. You see, this is vitally important to me as the recent federal law by Medicaid states that Aides can not transport their clients any longer to their errands and Doctor's appointments.

The scooter that I have now is very old and it is no longer working. Even though it may be just the batteries, and some kind of mechanism that needs to be replaced in the steering, it is not considered to be "street legal" and I have been stopped more than once because it does not have turning signals and headlights and reflectors like modern scooters have.

I do have a Physician's prescription for the scooter, and I really do need it so please I beg you to find it in your heart to help me with Medicaid. I am trying to find a Government grant in the hopes of being able to get one to pay for the scooter, but so far, I have not been able to find a thing.

If the Landex Cooperation will allow me to pay them \$75.00

a month for the scooter, I could probably find a way to do it but I confess that it will be a struggle to do so for the next two years as I am on SSI.

The irony is that if I was on Medicare, I would be able to get the scooter, but I am not 65, blind or worked for the Railroad. Medicare would help in a lot of ways but I can't get on it.

This is the only state that I know of that one can get a eye exam but not eyeglasses. I know that the times are tough, but isn't it reasonable to think if one can not pay for a eye exam, one can not pay for glasses either?

Please please find a way to help me. I need my scooter not only because I need to get places around Columbia, but

I also hope to be able to return back to school to finish up my BA degree in History.

Thank you for at least reading my letter,

Sincerely,
Heidi J Helmick

18 Berryhill Drive Apt. 4C
Columbia, Sc. 29210
803-772-1849

</MSG>

</APP>



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Robert M. Kerr
Director

July 17, 2006

The Honorable Joe Wilson
Midlands District Office
1700 Sunset Boulevard
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169

Dear Congressman Wilson:

Thank you for your forwarding a copy of Ms. Heidi Helmick's correspondence regarding Medicaid coverage of scooters to the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for review and response. We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Medicaid coverage is limited to medically necessary services, equipment, and supplies. Scooters, although desirable, are not considered medically necessary. However, Medicaid is able to provide an appropriate wheelchair to meet Ms. Helmick's medical needs based on the certification of medical necessity that her physician submitted. It is my understanding that program staff spoke with Ms. Helmick several weeks ago and advised her of this policy.

Thank you for your support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If you or your staff have further questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me directly or Mr. James Assey, R.Ph., Director, Division of Pharmacy and Durable Medical Equipment Services. He may be reached at (803) 898-2875.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert M. Kerr".

Robert M. Kerr
Director

RMK/bgam

Log # 54
✓