

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers /alaldrup</i>	DATE <i>10-18-10</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101185</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>10/18/10</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
<i>CC: Ms. Forbner, Depps, Kost, Quinten, Stensland</i>	<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.			

Upstate Coalition for the Disabled

UpstateCoalition@att.net



RECEIVED

OCT 18 2010

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

October 11, 2010

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
508 Hampton Street, #202
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Senator Graham:

We, as advocates for those with disabilities, recognize the difficulty you face in the next legislative session as you grapple with budget allocations and diminished state revenue. We remind you that it is your responsibility as a state lawmaker to help ensure that citizens with special needs have their core needs met. The Olmstead Supreme Court Decision of 1999 states that these individuals should be served in the "least restrictive environment." Not only are we not doing that, but we are forcing them to remain on long waiting lists that have not moved in almost two years. There are more than 5,500 individuals on these lists and many of them will not live to receive even the most basic services.

As we anticipate more slashing in the State budget for 2011/2012, we ask you to be aware of the rights of the disabled and not allow any additional cuts. Please do not forget those vulnerable lives that are losing hope waiting for someone to care about their needs. Take a stand and show them you care, now and in the future. We ask you to protect the rights of the disabled population of this state so we can all be proud to call South Carolina a state that takes care of its own.

Very Truly Yours,

John and Pat Schnorr, Members,
Upstate Coalition for the Disabled

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cc: South Carolina House of Representative Members
South Carolina Senators
SC DDSN Dir.
SC DDSN Commission Members
GC DSNB
SC HHS Dir.
CMS Dir.
Dir. Gov't/Comm. Rel., DDSN