

DEBORAH B. YORK

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The Honorable Nickki R. Hayley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Nickki Hayley:

I am 55 years old, and I was born with a birth defect according to MUSC (Medical University of South Carolina). I went to Charleston in September 2010 to seek a medical assessment. I speak plain but very soft. It sounds as if I always have laryngitis. I worked at Jantzen (textile) from high school, 1978, until they closed in 1998. After Jantzen closed, I went to Tri County Technical College and received an Associate in Business Degree. Before signing up for class, I asked the question, "*Will my speech be a problem getting a job?*" "No", they said. During the process of schooling, I began to be told that I would not get a job because of my speech. I went ahead and completed my degree. Fortunately, I was able to work full-time and insured up until July of 2010. However, since then I have only worked part-time short-term.

I know that job openings are few and far between in our area. However, I am a special needs person when times are at their best. I have been called for some very good interviews to have them taken away from me at the point of invitation (the phone call). When I do go on interviews, I make it a point to bring out my speech and explain that SC Voc. Rehab. (Vocational Rehabilitation) will make my workplace friendly. At this point, I am very disappointed with the attitude of those who have been assisting me with a job search. I have not heard from anything that Voc. Rehab. has applied for without my applying also. They apply outside the county that I live in making the job too far away. I live on the edge of Toccoa, GA but they won't seek for anything there due to monies appropriated. That is not fare to people like me.

Presently, I work for \$10.50 (Hilary says that we haven't had a raise in 15 years. I made \$10 and more an hour at Jantzen in 1998) an hour 20 hours weekly and temporary through Find Great People at night at the Department of Health and Human Resources (January 19, 2016). I am struggling to learn the job and have given of my personal time. It is complex, and I really need one-on-one training. I have already indicated to Voc. Rehab that I do not wish to be terminated due to lack of knowledge of the job as I was the last part-time position that I had. I struggle with phone issues through our helpdesk in Columbia. I beg Voc. Rehab. to continue looking for work for me and for full-time. They indicate that I should take what I get; and I do but it is not working in a couple of ways (learning/need for full-time). Pardon me, but you all are sitting well. You have money to purchase groceries and pay your bills; drive nice cars and go to the doctor etc. It's easy to sit back and judge what is good for me. I need full-time employment and insurance. My husband and I don't live lavishly. I inherited our home due to my parent's early death. We don't drive new cars nor have we ever since we married in 1991. Our newest vehicle is a 2000 bought used some 12 or more years ago. We have a drop saved; one hospital bill will take it. Our house is in repair. My husband informed me this week that we can't even afford a pet.

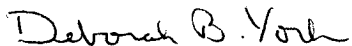
Financially and physically I am a mess. I have no insurance. It costs my husband over 12% to cover me, and he works out of state. I'd have to drive an hour at least to find a doctor. When I go to the market place, I have to add his salary (he's already covered) to the equation...therefore; insurance is still unaffordable. I have been in conversation with Senator Thomas Alexander concerning this. He recognized double expense for me but has not got back to me. I need to see a doctor, optometrist, and a dentist. My mother died at 29 with colon cancer; I experience symptoms that are scaring me to death but I go on and trust the Lord that I'm OK because I can't afford the cost.

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Will you please put me in the right path and with assistance to help me obtain affordable insurance? I don't approve of obamacare but we have to deal with it. Please make it easier for people like me to afford it. Loosen the rules at Voc. Rehab. that they might be willing to reach into Georgia or other surrounding states to assist people like me who desperately need and want to work? I know that I am in the wrong profession but that is attributed to the politically correct rule that I'm paying for now instead of Tri County saying let's look into another profession that you might train for and be successful. I agree with Trump; this political correctness is not right. Thank you in advance for anything that you are willing to assist me with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah B. York".

Deborah B. York

