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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov  
Date: 2/1/2018 11:21:49 AM  
Subject: Exceptional SC Scholarships

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Dear Lt. Governor Bryant,

It was a pleasure meeting you and speaking with you on Monday, January 29 at Bob Jones Academy about the Exceptional SC Scholarships and tax credits for special needs children to attend schools like Bob Jones Academy. My son Colin has ADHD, Asperger's and mild Tourette's. The environment at Bob Jones Academy is wonderful for him. He has thrived going to school there. The teachers are caring and experienced, taking care to help us and our children to succeed in school. Colin is currently in 5th grade and his teacher Mr. Muller has been wonderful to work with and goes out of his way to help Colin ( as have past teachers). I am so happy to be able to keep Colin here in this school. The EENC/ Exceptional SC grant has been a blessing. While we have never gotten a full scholarship, what we have gotten has been a true blessing for us. Combining the scholarship money and tax credits together helps us to put that money back into our son's medical care. The weekly Occupational Therapy appointments, doctor's appointments every 3 months and monthly medication add up ( one medication for him is \$800.00/ month retail- insurance brings it down to \$125.00/ month) and that is only one medication. He takes 4 other medications to supplement him during the day to continue to keep him stable and to control his Tourette's and Asperger's symptoms ( muscle and vocal tics which are not controllable without these medications). It all adds up so the scholarships and tax credits really help us to recycle that money back into his medical care. Raising the cap so more families can get full scholarships and more families can get even partial scholarships and having that money available before the school year starts would be wonderful! Right now, BJA starts around the second week of August and the scholarships usually come in around October. It would be really helpful to have that money before the August bill is due. I believe I also spoke with you involving a lack of communication within the DOR. For the tax credits, I send them the form SC SCH. TC-57A and in return, I get an e-mail from them verifying the Tax credit. When we file our state taxes, we file a form T361 with our taxes (online) and for the last 2 years our refund has been slowed down dramatically. The first year we filed, we got a partial refund ( minus the amount for the tax credit) in April ( we filed the beginning if February) and I had to call and send the verification in for the tax credit and we finally got the amount of the tax credit ( this came in May I believe). Last year, we filed I early February and waited and waited and I finally called and got through and they forwarded my call to someone else who took the information and I finally got a form letter requesting the verification. I sent the verification and we did get the full refund but this was again around end of April beginning of May. I know refunds were delayed due to checking for fraud and that is fine, but I would think if they had a question about the tax credit, it should automatically trigger a form letter for verification so we can get that to them quicker or the system should note the proper papers being sent so they can verify internally. This year we are going to try sending it via regular mail and send both the T361 form and the accompanying e-mails in hopes of speeding up the process. I'm sure getting the EENC codified for 2018 will help in getting scholarships out quicker and hopefully getting some of these hiccups out of the system.

Thank you so much for visiting and listening to us!

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