

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Speaks</i>	DATE <i>11-4-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000253</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cc: Ms. Farner Closed 11/10/08, letter attached</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>11-18-08</i> <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.			

JIM DEMINT
SOUTH CAROLINA

CHAIRMAN, SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE

340 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6121
demint.senate.gov

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
JOINT ECONOMIC

November 5, 2008

Ms. Emma Forkner
Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Ms. Forkner,

I am writing to refer a matter involving my constituent, Mr. Troy Turner, and the neglect experienced by his mother while at Palmetto Health Easley. Enclosed is a copy of his letter for your review.

I would greatly appreciate your responding directly to Mr. Turner about this issue. I have informed Mr. Turner that I would refer him to your agency in an effort to be helpful.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Best regards.

Sincerely,



Jim DeMint
United States Senator

CHARLESTON
112 CUSTOM HOUSE
200 EAST BAY STREET
CHARLESTON, SC 29401
(843) 727-4525

GREENVILLE
105 NORTH SPRING STREET
SUITE 109
GREENVILLE, SC 29601
(864) 233-5366

COLUMBIA
1901 MAIN STREET
SUITE 1475
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 771-6112

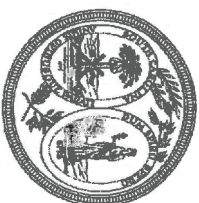
Mother - Judy Turner
DOB - 11-28-45

Troy Turner
465 North Garrett Street
Central, SC 29630
864-616-4327
iptay2003@yahoo.com

My 63 year old mom was severely neglected by Palmetto Baptist Hospital in Easley, SC. She had to eat with feces on her hand. She was denied treatment in the Emergency Room after I brought her into the Emergency Room after she was found in her bed with urine and feces in her bed. She had not eaten in days. She had not taken her medication in days. She needed help from the hospital and their advice to me was leave with her from their hospital emergency room or risk being arrested. Now, this is a woman that can barely walk, has sever diabetes, is on dialysis, takes 8 difference medications, has had 2 strokes and even had surgery 4 weeks ago. She beeged the staff to admit her or keep her longer until they could find out what the problem was. The hospital just kep saying she is fine. I was even told by the Police Officers that I should quit my job and bathe my mom and be a good son and that it was not the hospitals job to take care of her in this condition. Believe it or not this was what I was told. Even though I was told to leave the emergency room with her and bring her somewhere else, although she couldn't hardly walk and still had feces and urine on her from her inabilities to care for herself, I still refused to leave with her and demanded she receive treatment. Needless to say, I was not arrested as I was threatened to be and now she is in the custody of DSS Protective Services after I demanded she be treated for her health and social problems and that I was not leaving the hospital with her because she needed care. I was later escorted off the property and told she would be admitted into the hospital now because she is under the custody of the State. Unfortunately, they never allowed me to speak with a victims advocate. Furthermore, she was never cleaned up by the medical staff and remained in the Emergency Room, until I was escorted out at 6pm, with feces and urine still on her body even after I pointed that out to staff on numerous occasions to include when she first arrived at or around 10am. She was also placed on a bed in a hallway, not a room, while she begged for assistance so she could use the bathroom. She never got that help. I do have pictures of the feces on her hand. She was even forced to eat her dinner with her hands that still had feces on

them. Unfortunately, neither the charge nurse nor the Easley police did anything about my issues other than make idle threats against me. They even threatened to have me arrested and demanded I turn over my pictures, which I did not. My mom has never been arrested, never been in trouble. She has a lot of health problems and she is on medicare. There are a lot more horror stories I can share about today's experience that would just make you say, "Wow." Please allow me to share with you the other things I was told. Me, I am a respectful citizen and I hold a good job in Law Enforcement and the treatment my mom received today was outrageous. Please help me Mr. DeMint. Please be on my side and investigate this issue. It is even worse than I described here. I can tell you so much more about today and I even have witnesses that were there to see this treatment. This was patient neglect at its finest and you will be shocked to hear the other things I was told.

Log#0253



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

November 10, 2008

The Honorable Jim DeMint
United States Senate
1901 Main Street, Suite 1475
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Senator DeMint:

Thank you for referring Mr. Troy Turner to our agency with his concerns about the treatment of his mother, Judy Turner, while she was in the care of Palmetto Baptist Hospital in Easley, SC.

The Department of Health and Human Services administers the Medicaid program. Since this issue is out of our agency's scope of services, we have forwarded the correspondence to the Appalachian Council of Governments in Greenville, South Carolina to assist Mr. Turner and his mother with their issues.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs
Deputy Director

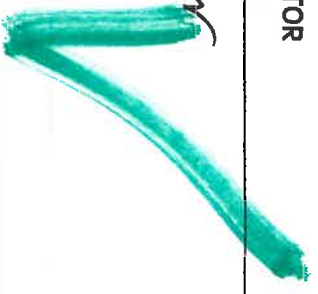
AJ/lp

cc: Nancy Hawkins, Appalachian Council of Governments,
Troy Turner

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

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TO <i>Midea</i>	DATE <i>11-4-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY 1. LOG NUMBER <u>000053</u> 2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <div style="text-align: center;"> <i>Cc: Ms. Jarkner</i>  </div>	ACTION REQUESTED <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <u>11-18-08</u> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action
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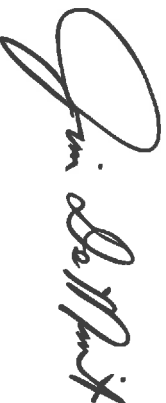
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