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March 20, 2015 6:01:28 PM EDT	FOIPLY	116	4	Received

Page: 1 of 4 03/20/2015 02:59 PM TO:18037345167 FROM: January Keck PHO
NE #4705391215

Recipient Information

To: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Company: Office of the Govenor
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Sender Information

From: January Keck
Company: re: Domestic Violence
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Phone #: 4705391215
Sent on: Friday, March 20 2015 at 5:58 PM EDT

The Honorable Nikki Haley

Office of the Govenor

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing in my concern about your "study of domestic violence." People are aware that it exists, but many do not know the symptoms of domestic violence. Others do not want to be involved in helping a victim of domestic violence because they are afraid to become involved. I explain my concerns in the form of a poem, which can be sung as a song, followed by facts that your study may or may not reveal unless you were to talk to a victim of domestic abuse seeking assistance. Thank you taking the time to read through these pages.

Sincerely,

January Keck

cell phone 470.539.1215 (text me only)

**She Never Made It To
the Shelter**
(To be read as a poem or put to music as a song)

She never made it to the shelter.
She could not "plan" or make a friend,
Pain and shame became a habit.
There was no one on whom she could depend.

She tried to ask for help
as others said she should.
She got nothing but excuses,
So she did what she could.

"Ellen, you know that woman
I go with sometimes to the daylily club?
Well, she had the audacity
to ask me to pray for her.
And you know what else Ellen?
She actually asked me to be a "stop-gap" for her!
She asked me to store her things in my garage
for six weeks! Can you imagine that?"
Of all the nerve! They have places for people
like her! She doesn't act right. There's something
wrong with her. You agree?"
She doesn't act right! She sure has changed.
I think she's crazy! Don't you?"

She looked out from different windows,
loved to look at pouring rain.
and thought of how life's beauty
is caught up in its pain.

"Don't you ever, ever leave me!"
He'd shout,
"I'll turn you in for stealing my car."
So I'd get a reputation,
So I couldn't go far.

When we first met,
he promised me I'd have a life and be free,
to create things that I'd wanted: writing and art
and for the first time, I could be me.

He began to drink, tell me all the things
I should and shouldn't do,
and I believed I'd become stupid,
He said,
"I'm beginning to regret I ever met you."

He reminded me of all the things
he had bought me, and the good things he had done,
so I'd remember to be grateful,
Or else I could go "back home."
And I responded, "But there's no home
to go back to. I sold it to come here."

I think that was his point; it was a threat.

On certain days I like to dress up,
It makes me feel happy to do just this.

He said,
"You're taking a lot of trouble putting on makeup?"
For someone whose just shopping from a list."

Now life is a roller coaster,
What was up is now brought down,
And I've tried to change my life some,
It's very hard, no jobs in a rural town.

Now the men seem to stick together,
He claims the lawmen are "his friends,"
I feel as though I'm drowning,
On bad days, he's smug . . . and he grins.

With a three tier system,
It's domestic baseball with words or fist,
If I ever manage to get the help I need,
I'm going to do something about this.

I have talked to other women,
They trade their stories which I note,
And in their lakeside homes here,
Would you believe? Rich and poor . . we're in the same boat.

Spoken aloud: Makes a person wonder what goes on behind
those custom drapes and double-paned,
insulated windows.

It's nice to have a shelter,
A safe place from the storm,
But give us jobs to keep us
truly safe from repeat domestic harm.

FACT #1

Older women are often targets of domestic abuse or violence. Did you know that older women who are in poor health or have chronic health conditions are not considered good candidates for some of women's shelters to take in?

FACT #2

Many educated, well-off women find themselves locked into relationships that are physically or verbally abusive or both because they are in poor health or have no skills? Governor Haley might not find these facts in her study!

FACT #3

Young women are often the main caretakers of their children. Day care is very cost prohibitive, especially if you have more than one child. Many women do not work because the cost of daycare is too expensive for them, and they do not wish to leave the children in the care and keeping of an abusive spouse or boyfriend.

FACT #4

Some women are lured away from other similarly abusive situations. They believe that the unknown--accepting "help" from someone they don't know could not be worse than what they are enduring presently. One woman gave up all of her property before she moved to the Carolinas. Her new gentleman (prospective husband) said that she would not have to work again, not bothering to mention that the area where they would be living a rural retirement community, with few jobs for those that need to work.

FACT #5

Financial dependence will keep a woman trapped and locked in a vicious cycle. The counseling provided at a women's shelter is somewhat effective. But what happens when she leaves the shelter? How does she survive? How does she save up the money to move out on her own? How will she support the most basic life style: food, transportation,

shelter? How does she get retrained. And what about those women with special health needs or those who are unable to work? Sometimes disability can take four or more years to be approved for SSI Disability.