

From: Office of the Governor Site Support

Sent: 7/17/2015 2:32:31 AM

To: Haley, Nikki

Cc:

Subject: survivor benefits for divorced women whose ex-husbands receive state retirement

Title: Ms.

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Message:

I lived in SC for 36 years or so. I had to move to a paid for NC home upon a divorce due to finances. I am 73 years old. At time of divorce, my ex-spouse, who is drawing SC retirement benefits, refused to grant me survivor benefits. We were 67/68 at time of divorce. South Carolina is one of a minority of states that does not allow a divorcee to choose this option, no matter how old one is and the duration of the marriage. Because of this situation, there are many SC women who will receive only SS benefits in old age. I would like to urge you to support action that would allow women in long-term marriages (and disabled as I am ) to receive these benefits. To live upon SS benefits puts women in a state of poverty and despair. Many older women cannot work or are disabled. I consider this to be extremely unjust. Such a change might not ever occur in my lifetime, but it would be a major boon to others at a later time. I consider your work as governor as one of the best the State has ever had, and am grateful for your graciousness and excellent standards. Thank you for, hopefully, giving my request some thought to my proposal. Sincerely, Priscilla Ridgell