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Subject: Gov. Nikki Haley, DHHS Director Tony Keck to discuss rural health, hospitals

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley and South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Tony Keck will discuss the administration's commitment to rural health and rural hospitals during a Statehouse press conference on Thursday, February 7, at 2:30 PM.

Under Director Keck's leadership, DHHS has sought payment reform, clinical integration and focused on hotspots of poor health and disparities. The agency recognizes that one-third of health care spending nationally is excess cost, and that by improving health care efficiency and effectiveness, dollars saved can be reinvested in services, geographic areas and populations where the most need exists.

Since 2011, hundreds of millions in excess cost have been removed from South Carolina's Medicaid system and reinvested in increasing services to the elderly and individuals living with disabilities, to improve the health of the state's poorest children and to increase mental health and addictive disorder services throughout the state. In addition, support of the state's rural health delivery system can ensure that the health care needs of rural citizens are being met.

WHO: Gov. Nikki Haley and DHHS Director Tony Keck

WHAT: Rural health and hospitals press conference

WHEN: Thursday, February 7, 2:30 PM

WHERE: S.C. Statehouse, first floor lobby, Columbia, S.C.

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