

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>1-21-10</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000310</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Kost</i> <i>Give to Bryan K. for response on 1/26/10 per Sam W/ Richard T.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2-1-10</i> DATE DUE _____ <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. <i>Close & 1/28/10, e-mail attached.</i>			
2.			
3.			
4.			



DANNY VERDIN

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 9, LAURENS AND GREENVILLE COUNTIES

404 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

POST OFFICE BOX 142

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

(803) 212-6230

DBV@SCSENATE.ORG

COMMITTEES

Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Medical Affairs

Operations and Management

Transportation

SENATE DISTRICT

P. O. Box 272

Laurens, South Carolina 29360

January 20, 2009

JAN 21 2010

RECEIVED

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Bryan Kost
Public Information Officer
SC Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

RE: Mr. Bob Strickler and his son Jason Rush

Dear Mr. Kost,

Enclosed you will find correspondence which I have received from Mr. Bob Strickler, of 134 Wadell Road, Greenville, South Carolina, 29609.

You will find the letter self-explanatory. I would appreciate any assistance that you could provide that would be helpful to my constituent. I am grateful for your help and look forward to your earliest possible response. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Verdin".

Danny Verdin
SC Senate District 9
Laurens and Greenville Counties

Enclosures

DBV/vbm

cc: Bryan Koss

1-12-10

Dear Senators Markin,

I am a dad of a son who is mentally retarded and who has a life threatening seizure disorder. Jason Rush just turned 40 years old last Friday. Although he is retarded and has multiple handicaps, he is one of the kindest, thoughtful, and finest young men I know. I am proud to be his dad and only wish I could be as good of a man as he is.

Jason lives at home with his mom and me. His mom's health continues to deteriorate from a painful and debilitating condition to the point that she spends most of her time in bed now. All of my time is dedicated to taking care of my wife and son whose needs are complicated. They each have multiple doctor appointments, require many medications, and depend on me for assistance with their personal care, meal preparation, and the management of our home. I am currently in remission from cancer. Without the help I receive through Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs Board for Jason, I would not be able to keep my little family afloat.

It is very important to my wife and me that Jason continues to live in our home. His doctors have told us that Jason's health is too fragile for him to attend a workshop or day program, and that he would not survive if he were placed in a residential setting. Our home is the safest and least restrictive environment in which Jason can live and maintain his best possible health.

I don't believe that most of our SC legislators understood the devastating impact that reducing funds for in-home care would have on families like ours when they approved Proviso 90.13. An amendment to Proviso 90.13 has been filed, and it is imperative that the General Assembly act immediately to approve this legislation. As I understand it, as a part of President Obama's Recovery Act, stimulus funds were given to SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs to be used to continue providing in-home support services funded by Medicaid. The Proviso allowed 90% of these stimulus funds to be transferred by the State Treasurer in 2009 to the Health Care Annualization and Maintenance of Effort Fund, dubbed by many as the Rainy Day Fund. If Governor Sanford has his way, the same will happen to stimulus funds earmarked for SC DDSN in 2010. Conservative estimates have placed well over 100 million dollars in the Rainy Day Fund account, and this is a clear violation of the Recovery Act. Had these funds not been diverted there would not have been a need for devastating cuts in home based care implemented January 1, 2010. The public has been led to believe these cuts are the result of

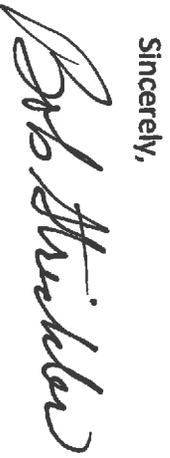
insufficient funds in the state budget, but that is false. **Governor Sanford's actions have been illegal, immoral, inhumane, and fraudulent.**

Placing these funds in a Rainy Day account has resulted in putting our most vulnerable citizens at risk of being placed in residential facilities or day programs that are inappropriate. Many paid caregivers have lost their jobs. Restoring these funds will allow hundreds of mentally and physically disabled citizens for whom these funds were intended to remain in their homes to receive the care they need. In addition to being the least restrictive environment in which they can be served, it is also much more cost effective for them to live at home. Residential services cost about \$400 per day as compared to \$70 per day for supported care in the home. Many of these vulnerable citizens have families who love them and want the responsibility of caring for them. However, without support these families will not be able to continue to care for their loved ones at home.

Even if you do not share my Christian world view and believe as I do that "if you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me", I hope that you do believe in the values of life, liberty, law, and ethics. I trust that you have a desire to live in a community of people who want to help those who cannot help themselves because it is the right thing to do.

As our legislators, I am asking you to do the right thing. Vote to restore funding to our most vulnerable citizens by amending Proviso 90.13.

Sincerely,

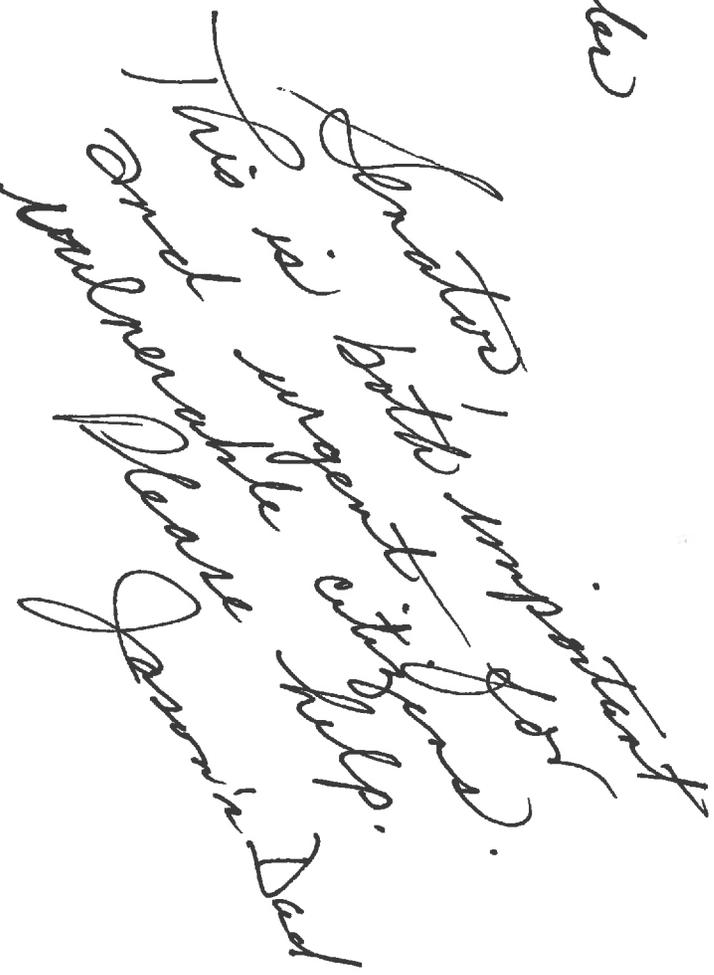


Bob Strickler

864.268.3716

134 Wadell Rd.

Greenville, SC 29609



From: Richard Kluender
To: Brenda James; Jan Polaty
Date: 1/26/2010 9:09 AM
Subject: Fwd: Log 310

Log # 310



Please see below, I will be bringing this back to you.

>>> Sam waldrep 1/26/2010 9:11 AM >>>
Letter to Bryan from Sen. Verdin re: Proviso 90.13 (stimulus money and DDSN services)

I spoke to Bryan about how to answer this letter and he said to send it back to him and he would take care of it.

Brenda James - Log 310 - Sen. Verdin

From: Bryan Kost
To: Brenda James; Felicity Myers; Sam waldrep
Date: 1/28/2010 2:03 PM
Subject: Log 310 - Sen. Verdin

Hi:
I called Bob Strickler and had a long talk with him. We can close this log. I told Verdin's office. Thanks,

Bryan Kost
DHHS Public Information
803.898.2865
cell- 429.3201
kostbr@scdhs.gov