

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Ries</i>	DATE <i>11/15/06</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOC NUMBER  <i>000363</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>Cleared 11/20/06, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>11/21/06</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

COMMITTEES:  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND  
TRANSPORTATION

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

340 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

**United States Senate**

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

(202) 224-6121

demint.senate.gov

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

November 14, 2006

Mr. Robert M. Kerr  
Director

Department Of Health And Human Services  
PO Box 8206  
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

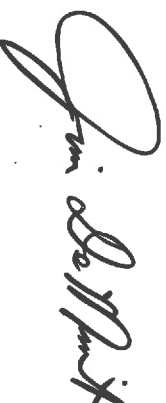
Dear Mr. Kerr,

I am writing to refer a matter involving my constituent, Erika Vonhein, and her request for assistance. Enclosed is a copy of her letter for your review.

I would greatly appreciate your responding directly to Ms. Vonhein about this issue. I have informed Ms. Vonhein that I would refer her 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

**RECEIVED**

NOV 15 2006

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CHARLESTON  
112 CUSTOMS 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

November 1, 2006

The Honorable Senator Jim DeMint. R-SC  
340 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

I am contacting you to ask for any assistance that you may be able to give in regards to circumstances that have happened to me in the recent weeks. I am employed with the Chester County School District as a Spanish teacher at Chester High School through an exchange program. This is my second year of employment with the district. I was recently out of school for maternity leave to have my son, Jordan, born on Sept 5, 2006. I just recently returned to school last week. Unfortunately, I had an accident on my way home from work and was taken to Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill. As a result of my accident, I am disabled and unable to return to work for eight weeks.


I need help because my son and husband are dependent on me and my income and now I will not have an income for the next eight weeks and need assistance to help to keep my household going. As a result of the accident, I have a broken collar bone and I sustained injuries to my knee and other parts of my body. I am in pain and in need of therapy. The most difficult part for me in not being able to hold my new born or care for him as I would normally.

Being a citizen of Colombia, South America, I am not sure what help or aid is available, but I would appreciate any help your office may able to provide, I have been aided by a wonderful family at my church, the pastor and his family. I have a few colleagues who have contacted United Way, the Salvation Army, and other local agencies. But so far, little aid has been promised. I would appreciate any help possible. Because I have not been employed for the required number of days, I was not eligible for many benefits for my maternity leave. After experiencing this accident, I am afraid that I will lose my home, my ability to take care of my family, and any resources I need to stay in America for the duration of contract.

Because of the urgency of the problems, I need to know if I can receive for a short period of time any aid such as food stamps, emergency aid, medical aid, or any such aid that is available to a non-citizen such as myself. Is there any aid for my American born son? I am currently able to receive WIC assistance. Thank you in advance for any efforts on my behalf.

Sincerely,

*Erika Vonhein*  
Erika Vonhein

*Erika Vonhein*  
2087-G Mehee Rd.   
Rock Hill, S.C. 29732



State of South Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Robert M. Kerr  
Director

November 29, 2006

Ms. Erika Vonhein  
2087-G McGee Road  
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732

Dear Ms. Vonhein:

Senator Jim DeMint asked our agency to respond to your concerns about Medicaid eligibility and your family's healthcare needs. We attempted to locate your telephone number to find out more information but were unsuccessful. If you will call Ms. Denise Epps at 803-898-2505, she will be glad to answer any specific questions you may have about the South Carolina Medicaid program.

You do not qualify for full Medicaid benefits because you did not meet the requirements of a qualified non-citizen; however, other members of your family may qualify. We have enclosed an overview of the Medicaid program. If you have questions about eligibility or the application process, please call our York County Office at 803-327-9061.

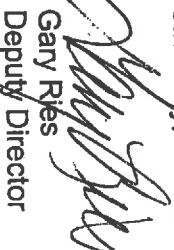
Your family members may qualify for the Communicare program that provides healthcare services and prescription medications to low-wage, uninsured South Carolinians who do not have insurance, Medicaid or Veterans Health Care benefits. Enclosed are an overview of the program giving the eligibility criteria and an application. Please call 1-800-763-0059, if you have any questions.

Another healthcare option is a Community Health Center (CHC). These centers provide health care to individuals in their area who lack the financial resources to pay for their services. Their charges for medical services will be based on your income. Your nearest CHC is North Central Family Medical Center in Rock Hill at 803-325-7744.

The Food Stamp Program is administered by the State Department of Social Services. We have enclosed an overview of the Food Stamp Program giving the eligibility requirements and an application. If you have questions about eligibility or the application process, please call their York County Office at 803-684-2315.

I hope this information will prove helpful in meeting your family's healthcare needs.

Sincerely,

  
Gary Rles  
Deputy Director

GR/jde  
Enclosures

363

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Ms. Erika Vonhein  
2087-G McGee Road  
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732

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You do not qualify for full Medicaid benefits because you are not a United States citizen; however, other members of your family may qualify if they are citizens and meet the categorical and financial requirements. We have enclosed an overview of the Medicaid program. If you have questions about eligibility or the application process, please call our York County Office at 803-327-9061.

Your family members may qualify for the Communicare program that provides healthcare services and prescription medications to low-wage, uninsured South Carolinians who do not have insurance, Medicaid or Veterans Health Care benefits. Enclosed are an overview of the program giving the eligibility criteria and an application. Please call 1-800-763-0059, if you have any questions.

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Sincerely,

Gary Ries  
Deputy Director

GR/jde  
Enclosures

Robert M. Kerr  
Director

Alicia  
I think they are trying  
to say that she has not met  
legal alien requirements. What  
they say is now citizens  
can not get Medicaid.