

**From:** Johnson, Dr. Judy <JJohnson@babcockcenter.org>  
**To:** 'Nathan Ballentine'NathanBallentine@schouse.gov  
**CC:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 7/6/2011 2:01:49 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Contact

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I met with Mr. Keck and Sam Waldrop from DHHS on Friday. Thank you so much for arranging this meeting. Despite his short tenure, Mr. Keck has learned a great deal about how we provide supports to people with lifelong disabilities in South Carolina. I know that he has an extremely difficult task to manage the budget approved by the General Assembly. However, I cautioned Mr. Keck that DDSN and its provider network had already taken program cuts 3 times during the last 4 years and further cuts could prove disastrous to our state. Around the United States lawsuits are being filed on behalf of people with lifelong disabilities and Federal Investigations under the Department of Justice have diverted billions of dollars in response to class action lawsuits and settlement agreements. Mr. Keck's decision to cut the rates in the ICF/MR residential programs by 3% is simply **wrong** and this decision can jeopardize hundreds of people with severe disabilities living in these facilities. the Department of Justice is looking for an opportunity to come into SC and I am quite fearful that once this ICF/MR cut is implemented, DOJ's presence is imminent.

I did offer Mr. Keck two suggestions to help him achieve his task of balancing the HHS budget. These suggestions include:

1. Support a 1% decrease in State Employee wages across the board (including the provider network in which I am employed). This 1% cut would more than balance any budget deficit SC is facing.
2. Support the closure of at least one ICF/MR Regional Center. The individuals currently living in these facilities could either move to one of the remaining 4 Regional Centers or move into the community into vacant and frozen beds (due to lack of funding). The cost of Community ICF/MR beds are significantly cheaper than the Regional Center ICF/MR beds and millions of dollars could be saved.

The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, under the direction of Dr. Buscemi has managed to stay within the budget approved by the General Assembly. They are extremely knowledgeable of the potential impact on further cuts to programs that support people with lifelong disabilities. I pray that Mr. Keck will work closely and cooperatively with DDSN officials to insure our precious state dollars are not lost to lawyers and "expert witnesses" due to lawsuits or DOJ's involvement in our state.

Thanks again for your support of people with lifelong disabilities. If I can assist you in anyway please do not hesitate to call.

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**From:** Veldran, Katherine [mailto:KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 12:01 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Dr. Judy  
**Cc:** Nathan Ballentine  
**Subject:** Contact

Judy,  
It was a pleasure speaking with you. Below is my contact information.  
Have a great weekend.

Thank you,  
Katherine

Katherine F. Veldran  
Legislative Liaison | Office of Governor Nikki Haley  
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