

From: Baker, Josh
To: Anthony Keck <KECK@scdhhs.gov>
CC: Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 3/16/2012 3:57:26 PM
Subject: RE: Statement on block grants.

Good stuff – I made some changes in blue – are there any objections?

Our priorities are all wrong in today's Medicaid system where we are forced to spend more time on federal compliance mandates that create paperwork but don't effectively reduce waste or fraud than we do on improving health. Providing states the option of operating under flexible Medicaid block grants can fix this. By clearly defining how much money the federal government is willing to spend per person for Medicaid, federal and state spending will be more predictable, states will be prevented from using financing gimmicks which drive up the federal deficit, and fighting fraud will be equally important to states and the federal government. Block grants can also focus Medicaid less on burdensome rules and regulations and more on accountability for health outcomes. President Clinton worked with Republicans to reform welfare through block grants and it created a new era of opportunity for millions of Americans. If President Obama does one thing for those in need in South Carolina, it will be to follow the bi-partisan success of welfare reform with Medicaid block grant reform.