

From: Catherine McNicoll <CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>  
To: Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>  
Date: 9/12/2017 12:03:23 PM  
Subject: FW: Website email from Lisa Stokes

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Thoughts?

I believe that we were involved with this woman and a fairly messy and complex issue with DSS while in the Senate.

*Best Regards,*  
*Catherine McNicoll*  
*Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs*  
*Lieutenant Governor's Office*  
*CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov*  
*803-734-5292 (phone)*

From: ltstokes@icloud.com [mailto:ltstokes@icloud.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 1:59 PM  
Subject: Website email from Lisa Stokes

Lieutenant Governor Bryant, I am interested in how your current position allows you to have more direct impact in the broken welfare system and DSS Agency in SC? Would your new position allow you to impose more accountability to custodial parents and DSS? Two billboards I've recently noticed around our state reflect a concern for the welfare of children. I am sure you, too, have noticed these. One shouts to the public that 1:6 children are hungry!! This strikes my heart on numerous levels. As a former teacher, I recognize most of those children live in a home with government welfare support AS WELL AS child support demanded by the state. Teachers often ask, "How can hunger exist in these homes in 2017 when this combined total income is often higher than a well educated, devoted teacher salary?? Does it stir other leaders to ask themselves HOW hunger could exist if basic expectations and accountability were in place?? In this day and age of technology is simply appalling to recognize the lack of demands placed on parents obtaining any amount of funding. How will our below minimal expectations in SC ever be expected to raise the standards on behalf of these starving children?? What does your position allow you to do to impact this?? What are you proposing should be done to demand changes? The second billboard that begs for public attention is the one encouraging dads to "make a moment, be a dad". Thankfully, times have changed and more dads are responsible for their children. They are devoted!! They choose to spend time and make these moments a reality for their children. The dads walking in this journey ask themselves, "Who is responsible for the lack of accountability that falls on custodial parents to spend government hand outs and child support on the CHILDREN???" Raising the below minimal expectations in SC to allow children to "thrive, not simply survive until dad comes" can begin with leaders like yourself. Raising the standards in our state can be as effective as raising the standards in our classrooms- we are inspired to rise to the expectations placed upon us and it makes for a better citizen in the long run. That applies to the state of SC becoming a leader, for once, in accountability and higher expectations of parents!!! Reduce hunger by fixing the problem!!! Allow dads to make moments instead of battling a system with so many failures clearly evident to our leaders. Finally, with financial technology at our fingertips, the success is achievable, but will require leaders to implement the obvious and think outside the box to benefit everyone!! You also recently were involved with the experiences of many families effected by the below minimal standard DSS county agencies throughout our state. Even with a sub-committee in place, no one involved with this agency seems to enforce accountability! Continuing to allow basic charts to be presented in meetings reflecting many false positives doesn't benefit the children needing attention in our state. Any demands from your position to assist those Senators who are working to make a difference with DSS? I am eager to hear your thoughts, learn what your current efforts are in reform, and I appreciate any contacts with people you know that are working on changes in any of these areas. Sincerely a Concerned SC Citizen, Lisa Stokes

Lisa Stokes  
143 Kingsland Way  
Piedmont , SC 29673