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Senator L Graham - Florence 8436699015

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## Senator Lindsey O. Graham

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### Fax Transmittal Sheet

To: Dr. Haley

Fax #: 1-803-734-5167 Date: 10-7-15

From: Alice Cooper - CONSTITUENT SVS.

RE: Chala Oberg Pages to follow: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Notes: Please note the Senator's interest and provide assistance. Thank

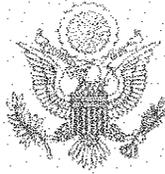
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LINDSEY O. GRAHAM  
SOUTH CAROLINA



290 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
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# UNITED STATES SENATE

October 6, 2015

The Honorable Nikki Haley  
Governor  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201-3756

Dear Governor Haley:

The attached letter concerns an issue outside my official jurisdiction. Therefore, as a courtesy to my constituent, I am sending this correspondence to your attention.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I ask that you please respond directly to the individual.

Sincerely,

Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator

LOG/ac

Enclosure

853 Eleanor Drive  
Florence, SC 29505  
September 17, 2015

Senator Lindsey Graham  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

A few years ago in 2012 my daughter, Lori Oberg Poston (formerly Lori Oberg Acorn), resided and worked in Florence, SC. She was employed by Carolinas Hospital System in Florence as a registered nurse. While in their employ she injured her back. This injury has resulted in three back surgeries and chronic pain ever since. She is not employed at this time because she is still under Workers Compensation.

Lori is 39 years old now which means she was 36 at the time of this work-related injury. She has two young children to help support and rear; they are 12 and 9 years old. Her Workers Compensation money will soon end, and she will need to return to work to help support her household. The problem with this is that she is in chronic pain that prevents her from sleeping and functioning in almost any capacity. This pain doesn't allow her to be the mother or person she wants to be.

Her injury occurred because she was transporting a patient on a defective gurney. When the gurney began breaking down and was going to crash into a wall, she reacted quickly to protect the patient from injury. She is the one who was injured as a result and now has what appears to be permanent damage and pain to live with.

Even though she has a suit against Workers Compensation as well as a Workers Compensation attorney, the settlement on that will be very limited from what she has been told, and she will still need income after that. However, it is very unlikely that she will be able to return to work. Her applications for disability income have been turned down several times. At this time I would like to point out that she would rather work as a nurse where she could earn more money than she would with disability income, but it is a very real possibility that working is not in her future. She would choose to work any day rather than live in pain.

After this injury took place, she consulted with attorneys about bringing a suit against the hospital. After all, if the hospital equipment had not been broken, none of this would be an issue. She was told that because South Carolina is a "right to work state" a suit for personal injury damages would be a waste of time. I am sure that you along with our law makers in the state could give some very convincing reasons why it is

Senator Graham  
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important to be a "right to work state" and how our state's economy benefits from it. I can tell you first hand that for those who are paying the price of this status, it is just plain wrong, and it doesn't matter what the reasons are to those who are suffering because of it. Carolinas Hospital System should be held responsible for the injuries my daughter has sustained and for the pain she is living with daily.

I was born and reared in South Carolina, love this state, and have no desire to reside elsewhere. Lori is one of three children. My other two reside in North Carolina. In view of what has happened to Lori, I would never try to influence the other two and their families to come to South Carolina because they have no protection here for job-related injury. If Lori had lived in North Carolina as well as some other states, she wouldn't be stressed out and wondering how she is going to support her children after the Workers Comp claim is closed. She would have recourse elsewhere that she doesn't have here in South Carolina. Neither you nor anyone else can make a good enough case for why it is so great to be a "right to work state." Business is being protected and not individual citizens/constituents. I would never encourage anyone to move to this state as it is now.

The price my daughter is paying for physical injury and the emotional toll it has taken is heartbreaking to her and our family. Her life has possibly been forever altered at the age of 36, and no one is going to be held accountable for it. I do not see how you and those in power can see any justice in this. It's enough to make a person become a democrat.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Charla Oberg