

Julia Sierra
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September 26, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton St
Columbia , SC 29201

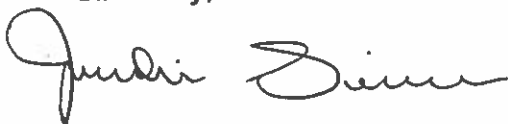
Dear Governor Nikki Haley,

Hi, my name is Julia Sierra and I am a senior at Crestwood high school. An issue I have noticed is the price of health insurance. Medical bills and expenses add up quickly and it's tough on people who don't have insurance. Most of the people who don't have insurance, cannot afford it.

The Affordable Care Act was enacted by President Barack Obama back in March 2010. It was drawn up to make healthcare more affordable for people. States have the option of whether or not they wanted to expand Medicaid coverage under this act to provide coverage for household incomes below a certain level. Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia expanded however, South Carolina was not one of them. South Carolina chose the other option which is the Marketplace plan which allows people to have minimum essential coverage so they won't have to pay a fee for not having any insurance at all. I feel as though that's hurting South Carolina and that we should instead expand Medicaid coverage. If South Carolina were to expand Medicaid, an additional 198,000 uninsured Americans would gain health insurance. The expansion would be fully paid for with federal funds for the first three years and after that, the federal funds would never go below 90%.

All states offer basic Medicaid, however some states such as South Carolina have not chosen to expand the Medicaid coverage. If a person's income is below federal poverty level and the state they live in has not expanded Medicaid, then they cannot take advantage of money saving health care programs. South Carolina has many families who fall under the low income category. I think it would be very beneficial to people and families of South Carolina if Medicaid got expanded. Healthcare and insurance is a pricy bill for a lot of South Carolina residence. I think it would be in the States best interest for this issue to be examined more closely. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I would greatly appreciate you letting me know of any possible solutions to this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Sierra". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Julia Sierra