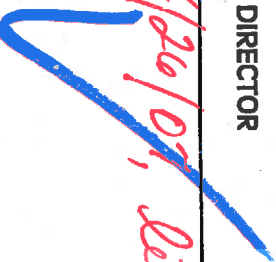


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Ries</i>	DATE <i>4-19-07</i>
--------------------------	-------------------------------

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER 000669	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 4/26/07, letter attached.</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>4-30-07</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

04/17/2007 11:02 8032126065

SC SENATE

PAGE 01

FAX COVER SHEET



*Pls log:
Piers -
APP. Hays*

S. C. SENATE

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FAX # (803) 212-6065

DATE:

April 17, 2007

TO:

Mark Off, DHHS

FROM:

Senator Larry Grooms

FAX NUMBER:

803.255.8350

PAGES

1 of 3 (Including this page)

RECEIVED

APR 19 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mark,

I have attached another constituent matter for your review. I would appreciate any information you could provide. Thank you!

Lily Cogdill

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE SHEETS INDICATED,
PLEASE CONTACT (803) 212-6230.

04/17/2007 11:06AM

04/17/2007 11:02 8032126065

SC SENATE

PAGE 02

Jella A. Harris
116 Carrier Street
Charleston, SC 29402 - 7594
April 6, 2007

South Carolina Senator Lawrence K. Grooms
404 Cassette Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Grooms,

I realize how busy you must be in representing us in all matters of legislation and I do appreciate all of the hard work you do for us on a daily basis. However, I am hoping you will find it in your heart to help me in my most dire of circumstances. I will attempt to be as brief as possible in describing my situation to you. I pray that you will be able to give me some direction, hope and even intervene in what has turned out to be a most lengthy experience for me with my attempt to receive Disability Benefits in South Carolina.

I was injured on the job in March, 2002; specifically I fell down 18 steps and as a result have incurred many physical problems from the fall. I was employed by Lenmark International, Inc. located in Lexington, KY as a National Accounts Manager. I had lived in Lexington, KY for my job but due to the failing health of both of my parents I had convinced my supervisors of my ability to perform my position while living in the Lowcountry. I moved myself at my own expense to Charleston and commuted out of Charleston International Airport to perform my duties for Lenmark, allowing me to be at "home" on the weekends to attend to my parents. I cannot tell you how much it meant to me; a divorced, single woman, self-supporting since 1991 to be here for my parents on the weekends to help them in any way I could.

My position with Lenmark involved traveling the country presenting, obtaining new distribution, educating the wholesaler's sales force on the benefits and advantages of Lenmark's product line, and helping to drive product through those National Accounts using promotions. This position involved extensive travel on my part but allowed me to come home and help with the care of my aging parents. I was truly blessed to have a position I loved and was excellent in and the peace of mind it gave me knowing I was helping the two most important people in my life.

As a result of my fall, I incurred many injuries. My injuries to date have necessitated eight different surgeries with the most serious of those involving: a total right knee replacement, replacement vertebrae with fusion in my neck and most recently, an ACL reconstruction on my left knee.

I applied for and received Worker's Compensation, as a result of my fall, but I have long exhausted by final total payment in full, the entire extent of what Worker's Compensation can offer. Additionally, my Cobra Benefits have expired.

I applied for Disability Benefits under South Carolina Law as my physicians and surgeons all have listed me as unable to return to work. My list of limitations is extensive but the most critical part is the never-ending pain I endure constantly. My pain level does vary somewhat but does require daily amounts of pain medication for me to accomplish the simplest of tasks. Normal personal hygiene and care of myself are a daily challenge. Additionally, my sleep is hindered, basically meaning I have been unable to sleep consistently for more than a maximum of four hours at a time. This does not allow my body the ability to properly rest and recuperate.

04/17/2007 11:06AM

04/17/2007 11:02 8032126065

SC SENATE

PAGE 03

Since March, 2002 I have been in constant, severe pain, had numerous operations and undergone Physical Therapy both on site and at home. I am currently recovering from my latest surgery, the ACL Replacement in my left leg. This surgery was partially paid for by my current private insurance Policy but requires a large amount of co-payment on my part.

I have had no income of any sort since my fall except for the Worker's Compensation. I have exhausted my personal savings and am in danger of losing my home, car and possessions because of my inability to work.

My initial request for Disability Assistance was denied. I have applied for a hearing to review my case and have hired James D. Callahan to represent me. We applied for the appeal last summer and as of today, still have not heard anything regarding my appeal other than it was received. I was led to believe that the hearing would normally take place between three to six months of our request.

I am limited in the amount of time I can sit or stand and this is confirmed by my inability to obtain any sort of normal sleep pattern. To name a few of my physical limitations: I am limited to picking up a total of 10 pounds; cannot bend, stoop or kneel; have limited movement of my head; can do no overhead work; and my pain and subsequent needed pain medication on daily days keeps me completely house bound.

With the knowledge that I will continue to have medical issues as a result of my fall and my inability to work, I am facing complete and total financial ruin, while knowing I will not be able to obtain the necessary medical treatment and medications I need to just continue my life as it currently is—painful and deteriorating. I am in imminent danger of losing my home, car and all possessions. My medical bills and prescription bills continue to mount up and I am receiving calls for payment regarding both currently.

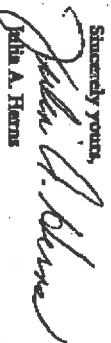
I am completely out of funds to continue supporting myself. I am extremely desperate, embarrassed and depressed over my current physical abilities and when it is compounded by my extreme financial difficulties it just seems as though the system has somehow displaced me and I am floundering at an astonishing rate.

Is there any help, advice, assistance or intervention you can offer me at this most critical time in my life?

I would be most appreciative of any help or guidance you can give me to help prevent me from losing everything I worked my entire life for, not to mention the fact that, I am facing a situation that I will no longer be able to afford needed medical attention and medications as my body requires and will continue to require as time passes.

I look forward to the favor of your reply.

Sincerely yours,



Beth A. Harris

cc: James D. Callahan

04/17/2007 11:06AM



669 ✓
State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Robert M. Kerr
Director

April 26, 2007

Ms. Julia A. Hems
116 Currier Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29492

Dear Ms. Hems:

Senator Larry Grooms contacted our agency regarding your Social Security disability claim and assistance with healthcare and daily living needs.

The disability benefits program is administered through the Social Security Administration (SSA). We contacted SSA and were advised that you, or your legal representative, can request an expedited appeal hearing date by writing them and referencing a "dire need" situation based on your current medical condition and lack of health insurance coverage. Please call the Charleston SSA Office of Adjudication and Review at (843) 727-4511.

Medicaid uses the same criteria as SSA to determine eligibility for its Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) program. It is important that you contact SSA as we suggested because, you will not be eligible for Medicaid coverage unless SSA reverses their decision. Enclosed is an overview of the Medicaid program along with an application for the ABD program. If your appeal with SSA is reversed, you may apply for Medicaid coverage based on your disability.

Enclosed are materials on organizations that provide assistance to individuals who lack the financial resources needed to obtain medications and other health care services. Please call the Charleston County Human Services Commission at (843) 724-6760, Ext.15 for possible assistance with your rent and utility bills.

If you need additional assistance from our agency, please call Jennifer Dabbs at (803) 898-3965, as she will be happy to assist you. We hope this information proves helpful.

Sincerely,


Gary Ries
Deputy Director

GR/jod



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Robert M. Kerr
Director

April 26, 2007

The Honorable Larry Grooms
Member, South Carolina Senate
404 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Grooms:

Thank you for forwarding Ms. Julia Herrs' correspondence to our agency regarding her Social Security disability claim and assistance with healthcare and daily living needs.

The disability benefits program is administered through the Social Security Administration (SSA). Since Ms. Herrs' correspondence did not provide a telephone number where we could reach her, we responded in writing and provided her with contact information for the Charleston SSA Office of Adjudication and Review to inquire about the status of her case.

To be of further assistance, we provided Ms. Herrs with information on programs that may be able to assist with her healthcare, prescription and daily living needs. Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Ries".

Gary Ries
Deputy Director

GR/jod

LEGISLATIVE LOG #	0669
LEGISLATOR/INQUIRER	Senator Larry Grooms
CONSTITUENT	Julie A. Hems
SSN	
BC ASSIGNED LOG	Jacobs
DATE REC'D BY AGENCY	4/19/2007
DATE DRAFT DUE GR	4/27/2007
LOG LETTER DUE DATE	4/30/2007
DATE REFERRED TO BC	4/20/2007

Brief Description of Issue/Problem	Date	Staff Person	Phone #	Action Taken
Regarding her SSA denial and hearing. Help with medical needs and daily living needs.	4/20/2007	Jan	8-2502	To Jacobs
	4/20/2007	Jenny	8-3965	I began working on this Wednesday. It was faxed directly to Mark. I called Lily to see if she had a contact number for Ms. Hems and she did not. She was not in MEDS, so I will respond in writing.
	4/23/2007	Jenny	8-3965	To Denise to proof and to Mark.
	4/23/2007	Jenny	8-3965	To Alicia.

CHECKLIST

Family Size	
Income/Resources	
Other Resources:	
Communicare	
FQHCs	
Free Medical Clinics	
Medicare	
MIAP	
Prescription Drug Programs	
Social Security	
Together Rx	

Programs:

ABD (32)	
Foster Children (31,60)	
General Hospital (14)	
HCBWS (15)	
LIF (59)	
MBCCP (71)	
Nursing Home (10)	
OSS (85,86)	
PHC (88)	
Pregnant Women & Infants (12,87)	
QMB (90)	
SILVERxCARD (92)	
SLMB (48,52)	
SSI (80)	
TEFRA (57)	
Transitional (11)	
Working Disabled (40)	

Instructions: