

1155 Clemson Frontage Road apt 412
Columbia, South Carolina 29229

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Nikki R. Haley

My name is Dominique Edmond. My address is 1155 Clemson Frontage Road apt 412
Columbia, South Carolina 29229.

I am writing this letter for (Session 121(2015-2016) H*4101) "Lupus Awareness Month" in South Carolina and this is my story. I was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Subacute Cutaneous Lupus, Arthritis, and Raynaud's Syndrome. As a resident, lupus patient, and registered voter of South Carolina, I am baffled by South Carolina's health care services. My problems are as followed: Having to be deemed disable by disability to make a decision, health care services until a decision is made a decision, Medicaid until a decision is made by disability, and there is no facility for lupus patients in the state's capital Columbia, South Carolina." Whereas, lupus, one of the world's cruelest, most unpredictable, and devastating disease, can range from mild to life threatening, but with good medical care,, most lupus suffers can lead a full life."(scstatehouse.gov)

Lupus is one of many disorders of the immune system known as autoimmune diseases. In autoimmune diseases, the immune system turns against parts of the body it is designed to protect.

Lupus can affect many parts of the body, including the joints, skin, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels, and brain. Although people with the disease may have different symptoms, some of the most common ones include extreme fatigue, painful or swollen joints(arthritis), unexplained fever, skin rashes, and kidney problems.

These are some facts about lupus:

- Since 1996, medical charges for lupus patients have totaled more than \$1,565,347,206 in South Carolina alone.(lupucs.org)
- It is important for people with lupus to receive regular health care, instead of seeking help only when symptoms worsen. (niams.nih.gov)
- South Carolina has not expanded Medicaid coverage to low-income adults. (Medicaid.gov)
- One in four with lupus receives disability payments. (watercure.gov)
- More than half (55percent) of the people with lupus surveyed whose is affected are working part-time, intermittently or are unemployed because of lupus. (lupus.org)

“Be it resolved by the House of Representatives: That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and the dire effects of lupus on its resolution, recognize and the dire of lupus on its suffers and their need for proper medical- treatment and observe May 2015 as “Lupus Awareness Month” in South Carolina.” (scstatehouse.gov)

If South Carolina recognizes the dire effects of lupus on its sufferers and their need for proper medical treatment, then why are lupus patients in South Carolina still suffering? I would to see a serious change in South Carolina’s legislation law, funding and facilities for lupus in

Columbia, South Carolina, and receiving Medicaid until disability makes a decision on the case.

I feel as if I am dying a slow death just waiting to live. Thank you for taking the time out to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Dominique L .Edmond