

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <u>Hess</u>	DATE <u>9-14-12</u>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <u>10068</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <u>CC: Lynch, Kost, Mr. Heck,</u> <u>Singleton</u> <u>Cleared 9/7/12, letter attached.</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <u>9-14-12</u>  <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.			

## Brenda James

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**From:** Jennifer Lynch  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 04, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** Brenda James  
**Subject:** FW: Constituents  
**Attachments:** 216568.pdf; 216570.pdf

Would you log these? Would you ensure that I am sent a copy of the response? I am to forward a copy of our response letters to the Governor's office. Thanks!!

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**From:** Peters, Hal [<mailto:HalPeters@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Lynch  
**Subject:** Constituents

Jenny,

Can you please forward these to the appropriate person/s at HHS and ensure these constituents receive a response? I would greatly appreciate a copy of their response when convenient as well. Thank you so much for the help!

Best regards,

Hal Peters  
Policy Analyst | Office of Governor Nikki Haley  
O: 803.734.4062 | [halpeters@gov.sc.gov](mailto:halpeters@gov.sc.gov)

Ref to HHS

July 27, 2012

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to you regarding the elderly population of South Carolina. With the lack of Medicaid reimbursements, the nursing homes have to reduce the number of Medicaid residents that the center can take without a huge fine at the end of the fiscal year. The nursing centers now either have to fill the beds with private pay residents, residents who have private insurance or those who are there for short term that meet the Medicare requirements. I live in the small town of Mullins where the unemployment rate is awful. The majority of people here do not have the kind of money that it takes to pay for long term care insurance or money to pay privately to the nursing centers.

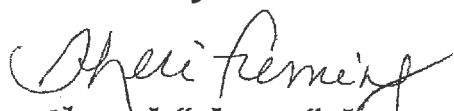
This is a total disgrace to the elderly population that may have worked hard all their lives to feed, clothe and provide a roof over their heads for their family. My mother had to come live in the nursing center this year. She had to exhaust all of her savings to pay for the room and medicines for a few months. Now she is on Medicaid. She is one of the fortunate ones that "got in" before the nursing center met their quota. I am so concerned about the ones that need a great nursing center but do not have the means to pay. What will happen to them? I know that a lot of people have misused Medicaid. I feel that our system allowed this, but why make the elderly suffer because of the younger generation?

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This is indeed a travesty in our state, and one that only you and your staff can change. The elderly deserve to be taken proper care of. My mother said that the government just wants to throw older people to the side of the curb. I have always known my mother to be a wise woman. She is definitely right. I am outraged that our state government is allowing this and expected better of our elected officials. I hope you read this letter instead of somebody else. I hope you will reconsider what you and other officials are doing.

My mother and the elderly are very dear to me. I have been a social worker for over 25 years. My mother always taught us to work hard, be honest and true. She encouraged me to finish college and make something of myself. I had the perfect example, my mother. Please take the restrictions off of the nursing homes so they can serve all the people that need their services.

Sincerely,



Cheryl "Sheri" Fleming

5218 Paper Shell Court

Mullins, South Carolina 29574



Log letter 000068  
✓

Anthony E. Keck • Director  
Nikki R. Haley • Governor

September 7, 2012

Ms. Cheryl Fleming  
5218 Paper Shell Court  
Mullins, South Carolina 29574

Dear Ms. Fleming:

This letter is in response to your recent correspondence to the Office of the Governor regarding the availability of Medicaid nursing facility care. First, I would like to thank you for your 25 years of service to the social work profession. During this time, I am confident you have helped many people who were in need of assistance.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) made the difficult decision to cut all Medicaid programs in order to balance the budget. Reductions were made as a result of a number of fiscal constraints including a projected \$125 million overrun, beneficiary growth, depletion of reserve funds as well as the introduction of a proviso which restricted rate cuts. In April 2011, an across the board rate cut of 3 percent was instituted. Additionally, a second round of cuts including a reduction of Medicaid permit days was implemented July 2011. Permit days determine how many days a nursing facility can care for a Medicaid beneficiary during a year.

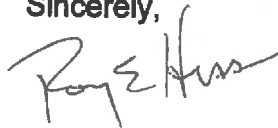
SCDHHS is monitoring access issues to ensure adequate care and has expanded its services through the Community Long Term Care (CLTC) program. CLTC offers a variety of programs to serve person who live at home, need assistance with care and are eligible for Medicaid. CLTC nurses and case managers work with eligible persons and their families to plan, coordinate, and authorize needed services. We recently made an exemption to the CLTC waiting list to allow people who are hospitalized and at risk of nursing facility placement to be given priority for this service.

As you noted, nursing facilities have had to adapt to changing income streams in order to remain viable. Upon the approval of the state fiscal year 2013 budget, we hope to add bed days to the counties with the greatest needs.

Ms. Cheryl Fleming  
September 7, 2012  
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Determining which Medicaid programs and services to cut was challenging, but necessary in order to ensure the viability of South Carolina's Medicaid program. If you have additional concerns, please contact Nicole Mitchell-Threatt at (803) 898-2689.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Hess", written over a horizontal line.

Roy Hess  
Deputy Director

RH/tk