

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>1-31-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOC NUMBER <i>000404</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2-11-08</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

Close, see attached email response.



APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1. <i>Claud Stumpf, letter attached</i>			
2.			
3.			
4.			

BILL COTTY

District No. 79 - Richland-Kershaw
8807 "C" Two Notch Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

(H) 788-1338 Tel.
(O) 736-0756 Tel.
(O) 252-3684 Fax



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

January 18, 2008

STATE HOUSE
522-D Blatt Building
Tel. (803) 734-4851

Committee:
Ways & Means

RECEIVED

JAN 31 2008

ELIGIBILITY POLICY
& OVERSIGHT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

TO: ~~SDSS~~
SCH&HS

RECEIVED

JAN 31 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

RE: Mrs. Constance W. Turgeon
408 Campcreek Dr.
Elgin, South Carolina 29045

Dear Ladies and/or Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a letter to Senator Lourie and me from the above-named lady detailing her terrible accident and injuries, and the status of her applications for benefits and eligibility for welfare, food stamps, Medicaid Eligibility, SSI/SSDI and the like.

Please give her applications immediate consideration and approval, and provide Mrs. Turgeon with any and all assistance, guidance and support possible under the law. I have known this fine lady for more than 25 years and she is an outstanding person who simply is the victim of a terrible accident.

Your favorable assistance and consideration would be greatly appreciated. Her telephone and address contact information is included in her letter. Thanking you for your attention, I am

Sincerely,


BILL COTTY

408 Campcreek Drive
Elgin, SC 29045
January 17, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE

Sen. Joel Lourie FAX 212-6299
Rep. Bill Cotty FAX 252-3684

Gentlemen:

I am turning to you as my legislators for some help. Bill and I have known each other for years. Perhaps he can vouch for me to you, Mr. Lourie.

On September 16, 2007, I was hit head on while driving on North Pines Road in Blythewood because two kids were drag racing. Neither of the boys was injured, but I ended up having my right leg amputated below the knee.

The positive response from my family, friends and others in the community has been fantastic. The moral support given to my daughters and me, the meals fixed and delivered, the assistance in getting me to and from therapy and the money gifts have been so generous and graciously given as to be unbelievable. Frankly, I honestly don't know what I would have done without the donations I have received, since I now have no income. My employer paid me until the end of October, a real blessing. However, now, in addition to no paycheck, I pay \$724.06 monthly for my COBRA. You can imagine I am in what can only be called a "hardship" mode.

Both boys involved in the accident have been indicted for racing. The one who actually hit me had only minimum liability coverage and that \$25,000 has gone to my attorney, John Nichols, to be held in escrow. The second boy cannot be found and, since his name was not on the incident report, Allison Sullivan in Mr. Nichols' firm is trying to run down the insurance information on that driver. This looks to be a long-term mess.

The reason I am asking your assistance is that after months of trying to get any kind of public assistance, the only money I have received has been a check from SOVA . . . that I received only yesterday. I applied for food stamps before Thanksgiving. After a number of calls and another visit to DSS, I am still waiting for approval. I've been told I should know "something" by the end of this week. I have had no income since 10/31. If it wasn't for friends and family, I suppose I'd be dead in the street by now! I verify I have no income; I verify my expenses; and when they ask how I have been eating and meeting the COBRA payment and I say, "family and friends", it's as if there is no need for urgency.

I've applied for SSI and SSDI. I had a phone interview just yesterday (the second) for SSI because I had been honest when I applied and told them of the bank account my friends had set up while I was still in the hospital to raise money for the modification of my house, as well as other expenses. That account is now down to about \$50. I can't imagine that people will continue to put money in it.

After all, it's been four months since my accident. But it is true that I paid this month's COBRA only because St. John Neumann's Crisis Ministry gave me \$400 and a friend had a fundraiser for the additional money.

Does this sound fishy to Social Security? I don't know, but I cannot depend on the kindness and generosity of the community to keep me afloat. I see no reason why I shouldn't qualify for government assistance. I wonder about all those people they say defraud Social Security when I can't even get what I legitimately deserve.

Now Social Security needs to see the one, little life insurance policy I have. So I am still on hold.

Lastly, I have applied for Medicaid but have heard nothing as yet. I am desperate to get out from under that monthly \$724 COBRA payment. Of course, if I were approved for SSI, in addition to living expenses, I would receive Medicaid.

Is there anything you gentlemen can do to help me? I am at my wits' end. My kids cannot pay for me and my needs without ruining themselves financially. It is not right to expect friends to take me on as their favorite charity any longer. Why have I paid into Social Security and Medicaid all these years if I can't get them when I need them?

I apologize for the length of this letter. At least I haven't tried to tell you all this over the phone! I will be happy to give you even more details, however, if you want to give me a call at 788-4487. I certainly appreciate anything either or both of you can do to expedite any of these programs. Please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

Carrie Turgeon

CONSTANCE W. TURGEON

From: Lena Girgis
To: Brenda James
Date: 2/4/2008 1:58 pm
Subject: Log 0404, Constance W. Turgeon

CC: Alicia Jacobs; Jan Polatty; Lena Girgis; She...

Sheila Chavis spoke with Senator Lourie's office. I spoke with Felisha at Rep. Bill Cotty's office, to let her know that we had spoken with Ms. Turgeon and sent her an information packet; she said that this was enough for her records, no written correspondence was needed. Thank you.

Lena

XX-Ref to non logged entry

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

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Log 404



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

February 12, 2008

The Honorable Bill Cotty
South Carolina House of Representatives
8807 "C" Two Notch Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Dear Representative Cotty:

Thank you for referring Ms. Constance Turgeon to our agency regarding her healthcare needs. We were pleased to contact Ms. Turgeon regarding her Medicaid application.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance in this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/fjcodc



Log 0404

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

February 12, 2008

Ms. Constance Turgeon
408 Campcreek Drive
Elgin, South Carolina 29045

Dear Ms. Turgeon:

Senator Joel Lourie and Representative Bill Cotty asked our agency to assist with your questions and concerns regarding your healthcare needs.

We are pleased to inform you that your application for Medicaid coverage under the Aged, Blind or Disabled program was approved effective January 1, 2008. You have also been approved for retroactive Medicaid coverage under the Working Disabled program for the month of September 2007. You should be receiving the approval letters within the next two weeks. Your Medicaid card will be mailed to you and may be used immediately for Medicaid covered services.

If you have additional questions about the Medicaid program, please contact Ms. Sheila Chavis at (803) 898-2707. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs
Interim Deputy Director

AJ/codc