

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 3/17/2015 8:18:56 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: The Mental Health Program Act S. 426

Title: Mr
First Name: Paton
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Blough
Suffix:
Street Address: 104 E. Montclair Ave.
Street Address 2:
City: Greenville
State: SC
Zip: 29609
Phone:

Email: paton@rehinge.com

Affiliation: Constituent
Message:
Dear Governor Haley,

I wanted to write you a brief note thanking you for Bryan Stirlings support of this important legislation S. 426 The Mental Health Program Act. As I am sure you are aware he has been supportive of this legislation and spoke on its behalf at the first Judicial Sub-Committee hearing. I have felt in the past that your office has not done enough for mental health reform but this is a huge positive step that is well appreciated and recognized.

A year ago I handed a petition to your Aide Jamal Smith that had a couple hundred signatures supporting the Judge Baxley order and asked for you not to appeal the decision. Although you technically appealed the decision it is my understanding that Bryan Stirling has been doing a stellar job at making much needed changes to the DOC when it comes to the treatment of the mentally ill. I was a proud participant recently in the Crisis Intervention Training for guards and that program seems to be getting a great response.

A second reason I wanted to write today was to ask you to specifically make a few calls or contacts from your office to members of the full Judiciary Committee and ask them to support S. 426. I believe there are still many members of the Senate who are relatively unfamiliar with the importance of this legislation. Many studies have proved how effective Mental Health Courts are at saving lives, restoring families, making our communities safer while saving tax payers millions of dollars.

I am proud to have conceived this bill and I am thankful for Senator Sheheen for introducing it and for the bipartisan support it has already received. Think of this way, when you get accused of being partisan you can point to this issue to prove that would be a false statement!

H. R. 401 which was introduced by TEA Party Republican Rep. Rich Nugent and Democrat Senator Al Franken would authorize the grant money for Mental Health Courts and Veteran Courts around the country. This is a growing movement and one I would love to see you to continue to support. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

With all my Truth and Sincerity, Paton Blough

104 East Montclair Ave.
Greenville, SC 29609