

Mrs. Nikki Haley,

I am a concerned citizen of our great state of South Carolina. I hope you can help me or answer some questions for me that I have concerning the Department of Social Services. Why are the employees of DSS getting treated so poorly? I mean are these not people like our police officers or fire fighters? They walk into a situation that could potentially be dangerous and end tragically just like an officer does.

These people save children's lives, elderly people's lives, and they have to put up with so much! They have people who call and threaten them, curse them out on a daily basis, they have no security. Why? Do you not think that their safety is important? I mean at least have a door guard on duty or something. What happens if someone comes in the door, their food stamps have been denied, or they want their kids back and they think they are there? They go crazy and start doing crazy stuff. Who is there to protect the people who have to deal with their outbursts? No one. Why?

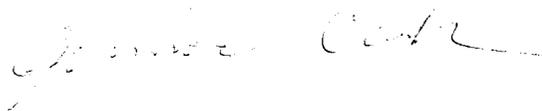
These people work day in and day out, the emergency contact people who are on call at night, they are 24/7. Why do they not get paid as well as everyone else who works for the government? These are things that just do not sound right to me. I mean no wonder people do not want to work for the state or any government "lower" class job. And I say lower class because they get paid like they are.

If we did not have these people who just put their hearts in it, they want to save the children and the elderly from abuse, no one would want these jobs. If people come to the point where they can't live on just the love in their hearts for this kind of job then we are done for. No one would want to work for the state. I am completely disgusted with the whole thing. We cannot treat people who save others' lives like this. They care and that's the only reason they stay. What happens when caring just doesn't pay the bills and put food on the table for their families? Then what? What happens?

We need to treat DSS workers just like police officers and firefighters. They all do the same thing. They save lives. They need to feel secure in their work place. They deserve to feel safe. Right now, they're not. I hope you can enlighten me if I am totally of course here, and I almost hope I am, but can guarantee that I'm not. It just makes me sad for these people. It really does.

Thank you for taking your time out of your busy day to read my letter. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you!



Jessica Cook