



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

July 12, 2016

Ms. Connie Coward
2474 Vistavia Road
North Charleston, South Carolina 29406-9745

Dear Ms. Coward,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding my administration's consistent opposition to the Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as Obamacare.

As long as I am Governor, South Carolina will not implement the public policy disaster that is Obamacare. We are not going to jam more South Carolinians into this broken program – one that stifles innovation and discourages personal responsibility while encouraging fraud, waste, and abuse, not to mention costing taxpayers billions of dollars a year. The “glitches” we are all witnessing with the government healthcare website and enrollment process are just the beginning; the real problems with Obamacare are still to come, and that is why we are continuing to fight against it every day.

The good news is that in the Palmetto State, in spite of most provisions of Obamacare, we are working with employers, hospitals, private insurers, doctors, and patients on the real problems that affect the health and well-being of South Carolinians. Instead of expanding Medicaid, we've been working to change the way we deliver healthcare in our state. Going forward, I will continue to fight for the flexibility states need in order to focus on improving health instead of just purchasing more health procedures. This strategy will allow us to reduce compliance burdens for providers and insurers while addressing social determinants – such as education and poverty – that are also associated with health outcomes.

As I have said from the beginning, South Carolina does not want or need Washington-based solutions to address healthcare in our state. If Washington truly cared about improving the health of our citizens, it would get out of the way and let South Carolina find the right solutions for South Carolinians. Thank you for your attention to and concern about this important matter. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nikki".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/ahp

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thanks Connie".