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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

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Subject: Justice in Aging is equity for all people

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As we prepare to launch our new name and tagline, Justice in Aging: Fighting Senior Poverty through Law, we've all been thinking about what Justice in Aging means. Our founding mission was to use the power of law to fight for justice for the elderly poor. That includes equal access to benefits regardless of race, sexual orientation, or primary language. After 43 years, that hasn't changed, and it won't.

Fighting for equity within the safety net systems poor older adults rely on—Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care facilities, and a gamut of other services—is what has driven my passion for this work for over 20 years at NSCLC and I can't wait to continue under the name Justice in Aging.

Even though the Defense of Marriage Act was struck down by the Supreme Court as a result of *Windsor*, our nation's LGBT individuals and couples continue to face inequities as they fight to access the health care and public benefit programs they are entitled to. That's why we're focusing on ending discrimination against LGBT individuals in long-term care facilities and ensuring that same sex married couples can access federal social security, SSI, and Medicare benefits, whether or not their state recognizes their marriage.

In a couple of weeks, we'll no longer be going by NSCLC, but you'll still recognize our work fighting for the rights of all low-income seniors and ending disparities in health care and economic security benefits.

Sincerely,

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Gerald McIntyre  
Directing Attorney

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