

From: South Carolina Respite Coalition <respite@screspitcoalition.org>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 2/6/2016 6:31:38 PM
Subject: What would you do for a million bucks?

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Your call might help S.C. family
caregivers of all ages get millions for
respite - literally!

It's as easy as ... pie!

Respite Awareness Week

February 8-14

- **Phone, write or e-mail your State Senator and Representative this week. *the week of love and caring.***

- **Inspire them with your caregiving and respite stories and thank them.**

After two years of awarding generous ONE TIME funds, in 2015 the legislature approved \$1 million recurring (on-going) respite money in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging (LGOA) budget. (This is being distributed in vouchers to family caregivers by the 10 Family Caregiver

Support Programs statewide and by S.C. Respite Coalition.)

In 2014 the legislators awarded funds to allow S.C. Dept. of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) to serve 1,400 more families - support services, which can include respite.

- **Encourage them to keep it up *and* approve new respite funds!**

In the 2016-17 budget LGOA is asking for another \$1.6 million recurring funds for respite statewide. (note: The Governor removed it from the "Executive" state budget she sent to the legislature, so this means the Senate and House committees will have to reconcile all versions.)

In 2016-17 DDSN requests \$1 million recurring to pay for 8 non-emergency respite beds.

To find your STATE legislators:

www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php

- Put in your zip code,
- Local, state, and national legislators & leaders "pop" up,
- Click on their name and you can write an e-mail or get their phone numbers.

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