

January 11, 2015

SCDHHS

Christian Soura

Elizabeth Hutto

PO Box 8206

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RE: Medicaid Application Process

I originally submitted an application for my grandmother in June 2015 and was told in December 2015 that it was denied and I needed to submit another application. I submitted another application on January 5, 2016 and already cannot get a return email or phone call confirming that it was received. I have been dealing directly with:

Carol Funchess

803-254-5960

funchess@scdhhs.gov

Laura Winston

843-774-2713 ext 153

winstonl@scdhhs.gov

Marilyn Roberts

803-741-1165

robertmy@scdhhs.gov

During the first application process I was given conflicting information and my emails and calls were ignored or returned weeks later. The nursing home is about to discharge her, everyone in the family works and doesn't have the means to take care of her. My grandmother has worked and paid into this program since it started over 50 years ago. Now that she is 80 years old and bedridden in a nursing home it has been a major hassle and added stress to use the benefits she deserves. It disgusts me that if she was a 20 year old single mother of 3 that never worked a day she would have every benefit the state offers in a matter of weeks.

This program needs some serious improvements! 1st of all -There should be requirements that you have to work a certain amount of time before you can claim benefits and only for a set amount of time depending on years worked. 2nd of all - When you have worked your whole life it should not be so difficult to use the benefits you have paid for.

This should be for all tax funded programs. I have worked since I was 15 years old and I am now 42. A few years ago I lost my job because the company I worked for closed. I couldn't get any benefits because I am married and have worked all that time. I almost lost everything I have worked so hard for. I pay my taxes and I cannot believe that the one time in my life that I needed a little help I couldn't get it.

Thank you for your time,

Sherry Key

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CC:

Governor Nikki Haley

Senator Joel Lourie

Representative Joseph A. McEachern