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Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
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Subject: Draft Email to Legislators

Good morning,

Hope you are doing well. Below is a draft message to the legislators and support staff that we have prepared. We want your comment/edits/revisions. Once you are comfortable with the content, we will send it out. Katherine, would you mind sending me your list of contacts so I can ensure everyone is in the bcc line that needs to be there.

All the best,
Karen

Good morning,

I joined the South Carolina Department of Social Services on October 5th as the new Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs. I am honored to work with Director Alford and with the great employees at SCDSS. My position at the Department is new and, therefore, I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself and provide a quick overview of my role within the Department. In my position, I will be responsible for overseeing constituent services, media relations and legislative affairs for SCDSS. I am extremely fortunate to have Marilyn Matheus (Director, Media Relations/Constituent Services) and Pam Bryan (Ombudsman) working within this new office. The three of us are working closely together to ensure that all messages from DSS to third parties, including elected officials, staff, media and constituents, are both consistent and timely. William Bray has moved full-time into his role as the Director of Financial Services for the Department and I am very appreciative of his assistance transitioning the role of Legislative Liaison for the SCDSS to me. Please update your contact lists and emails to ensure that emails regarding SCDSS are directed to my attention going forward.

Prior to joining the Department, I was a partner at the law firm of Fisher & Phillips and worked at the firm's office in Columbia where I practiced labor and employment defense for almost ten years. I graduated from Eckerd College in Florida with a B.A. in Political Science and earned my law degree, from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. For more than seven years, I have been a member of the Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands Board of Directors and next year will begin by third year as the Vice Chair of the Board. During my time on the Board, I have also chaired the Nominating Committee and the Development Committee, as well as chaired the planning committee for the annual Women of Distinction event which is the largest fundraiser for our Council. Additionally, I am the president elect of the Columbia Chapter of the Columbia Society of Human Resources Management, served as an officer on the Board of Directors for ACTS Metro, volunteer as a mock trial judge for middle school and high school competitions, and am a partner at Eastlake Community Church where I serve in a variety of capacities.

Over the next several weeks and months, I hope to schedule meetings with many of you so that I can learn more about your work and your connections to DSS. During these meetings, I look forward to getting your input on the ways in which DSS can effectively manage media relations, constituent services, and legislative affairs and how we can improve our services in those areas. In the interim, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you and have a great day.

*All the best,
Karen*

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