

From: Cyndie Gerles <cgeries@gmail.com>
To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 3/21/2017 1:09:02 PM
Subject: Fwd: Copy letter

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From: "Cyndie Gerles" <cgeries@gmail.com>
Date: Mar 20, 2017 6:54 PM
Subject: Copy letter
To: "Cyndie Gerles" <cgeries@gmail.com>
Cc:

Today, I read with interest your article in The State newspaper.....Brother, I Can't Spare A Dime. I agree with you... SCDOT has raped taxpayers for years. They have been allowed to pad the pockets of contractors (two I know personally) who have become independently wealthy off the backs of tax dollars poorly allocated and poorly monitored. What is new? I appreciate your effort to "call them out" and am interested in your explanation as to why this corruptness continues year after year.

I know you represented our state for years. Please help me understand the logic in allowing the irresponsible unaccountability of most SC state agencies and their directors. I followed the 2015 Senate hearings on DSS aired by SCETV. Thank you especially to Senators Katrina Shealy, Joel Lurie, and Tom Young in their relentless efforts to investigate the criminal treatment of our children and vulnerable adults. Although I have retired, I must admit that I had a vested interest in these hearings, as my daughter was working an unreasonable dangerously inflated case load in Child Protective Services . The liability and safety issues associated with

social workers, attendance supervisors, and all agency home visitors/providers is frightening. How are they to defend themselves in the field? Thank goodness for local law enforcement officers who never failed to assist and support me when called upon.. In my lengthy career, I spent endless hours witnessing and reporting horrific instances of abuse and neglect. As attendance supervisor, my duties included making home visits, meeting with students and parents to investigate cases of educational neglect and truancy, networking with state and local agencies, and making referrals to the court system. I spent endless hours in Family Court hearings. Historically, generational poverty and associated social implications continue to thrive in SC. We may work HARD, but we do not work SMART! Rarely do we provide effective prevention programs. Historically, we wait until situations present a CRISIS for immediate intervention.

Tragically, SC does not have any shared technology system to document on going information and records of children and families. Children die before critical information can be gathered from agency to agency in an effort protect them from continued abuse. I can only imagine that an agency statewide technology system would prevent endless hours of wasted time seeking critical information and release forms necessary to protect children. Heaven forbid that in 2017, an inner agency technology system is not in place in our state to provide accountability for services or comply with federal laws related to the collection of child support.....Fines mount up annually. It is no wonder that SC agencies are always in crisis. the Annie Casey Foundation Kids Count stats

deem the "WELL BEING" rating of SC children as embarrassing . In my opinion, the treatment of SC children is nothing short of CRIMINAL.

I am equally interested in the reason the SC State Retirement System has been allowed repeatedly to rape state taxpayers, state agencies and state employees.....\$ 28 BILLION in debt.....Really??? I would be ashamed to reveal to you my retirement salary. I don't know Curtis Loftis personally, but appreciate his endless efforts to educate our citizens as to the waste of our hard earned money. For years, he has published updated articles on this mounting debt that continues to grow. Why was he recently removed from the oversight advisory committee? Why was this debt not addressed sooner? Do state employees and retirees have any recourse for a law suit alleging poor investment practices and general misuse of our funds? It is my understanding that the AG ruled the open amortization method unconstitutional?

I served 43 years as a public school special education teacher and Darlington County School District Attendance Supervisor. I was the lead teacher when the Public Law 94-142 required public schools to serve all handicapped children ages 5-21 years regardless of their handicapping conditions. I could write horror stories about the abuse and neglect of mentally retarded, divergent learners, and all classifications of special education vulnerable students have suffered socially and educationally. Trying to initiate services and navigate SC Protection and Advocacy Services is difficult for parents and professionals.

To provide you with more information for my disgust and simply stated anger, I must share with you my previous experiences serving on the advisory board of Darlington County DSS, a two term member of the Fourth Judicial Circuit SC Foster Care Review Board, a member of Darlington County First Steps Board, a member of Darlington County Clemson Extension Board, a member of Darlington County Solicitor's Youth Drug Court Program, past President Of SC Association Of Attendance Supervisors, and initiating the Guardian Ad Litem program for Darlington County.

I can only express my continued frustration with state agencies most especially as they serve children and families. Thank you for enduring the brunt of my rant. As you can decern, I have tried to network with countless other state and federal agencies. Certainly, I have experienced professional interactions with many. However, I find it frightening that little has changed in my experience for coordinated accountable services for children and families in my 40+ year career. I want to apologize in advance for my short fuse. Thank you for your service and insight. I certainly share in your frustrations. It is a good thing that I am retired....I fear that I might be arrested if I were still employed. Again, I appreciate your commitment to our state.

Respectfully,
Cyndie Gerles