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Ethics

SC Legislative Black Caucus,
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House of Representatives
State of South Carolina

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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor, State of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Greetings:

After extensive discussions with one of my small business constituents, I have grave concerns about the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) operations. Specifically, I have become aware that in administering federal and state taxpayer dollars, the SCDMH is not spreading these funds amongst community-based mental health service providers. While their listed Mental Health Centers across the state (in Aiken, Anderson, Greenwood, Berkeley, York, Charleston, Beaufort, Richland, Greenville, Lexington, Orangeburg, Florence, Sumter, Spartanburg, Marlboro, and Horry Counties) are funded and receive customer referrals, smaller licensed mental health service providers -- as I understand it -- are being left out in the cold. I hope this is not the case. If they are licensed, these smaller operations should receive customer referrals as well.

I am also told that these smaller operations should be provided equal opportunities to serve those in need and not be more heavily regulated, ignored, or otherwise cut out of any referral rotation system for sending mental health service customers.

I write this group to request a full inquiry into how the South Carolina Department of Mental Health is parceling out the federal and state taxpayer funds -- specifically in regard to referring mental health service providers in smaller operations, who are licensed, trained, and ready to support both the State Department of Mental Health, its designated Mental Health Centers, and, of course, customers in desperate need of receiving mental health services.

I look forward to your prompt action and a report of your findings to me.

Sincerely,

John R. C. King