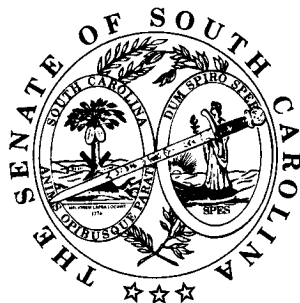


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September 30, 2014

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor
Post Office Box 11829
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to respectfully request that you have key members of your staff present for Friday's meeting of the Senate DSS Oversight Subcommittee. The agenda for this week's meeting includes the interim plan that is being offered by DSS to address the serious concerns that the Subcommittee has concerning child safety issues and high caseloads. Since DSS is a cabinet agency, I believe you would have an integral role in the development of this plan. As such, I feel that it would be beneficial to the process to have key members of your staff present and available to answer questions that may arise regarding your thought process during the development of the interim plan.

Through the course of our meetings, we have heard testimony that has often led to more questions than answers. The majority of the testimony has been focused on the placement of children, overburdened caseworkers due to extreme case loads, high turnover rates for case workers, and the difficulty of the agency filling the caseworker vacancies.

In addition, we are scheduled to hear from the Legislative Audit Council on their findings regarding the Department of Social Services. I am sure it would be beneficial for your staff to hear this as well.

We hope and believe that the deliberations of this subcommittee have opened a line of communication that will help to ensure that DSS fulfills its obligations to protect the welfare and safety of our vulnerable children. I thank you for making your staff available to the Subcommittee on Friday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Lourie", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Joel Lourie

CC: The Honorable Tom Young
The Honorable Katrina Shealy