


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>10-31-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOC NUMBER <i>000241</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>11-7-08</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleared 11/12/08, Detlev asthede.D.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

LINDSEY O. GRAHAM
SOUTH CAROLINA



290 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5972

UNITED STATES SENATE

October 30, 2008

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Ms. Emma Forkner
Director
SC Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

*kg. Jacobs
in Sign.*

RE: Ms. Sharon McGovern
SSN: 260-29-8269

Dear Ms. Forkner:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence I have received from the above named constituent. I believe you will find it self-explanatory.

Your reviewing this material and providing any assistance or information possible under the governing statutes and regulations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator

LOG/lt

Enclosure

Please reply to: Senator Lindsey Graham
530 Johnnie Dods Boulevard, Suite 202
Mt Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

508 HAMPTON STREET
SUITE 202
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 833-0112

401 WEST EVANS STREET
SUITE 228B
FLORENCE, SC 29501
(843) 669-1505

101 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
SUITE 220
GREENVILLE, SC 29601
(864) 250-1417

530 JOHNNIE DODDS BOULEVARD
SUITE 202
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464
(843) 849-3887

140 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 110
ROCK HILL, SC 29730
(803) 366-2828

135 EAGLES NEST DRIVE
SUITE B
SENECA, SC 29678
(864) 888-3330

Senator Lindsey Graham
530 Johnnie Dods Boulevard, Suite 202.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Dear Senator Graham:

My name is Sharon McGovern; my SS # is 260-29-8269. My birthday is May 23rd, 1960. My current address is 112 Union Cemetery Road, Apt # 627 Hilton Head Island SC, 29926

I recently contacted your office concerning getting help as to why I have been denied Medicaid and SSL. I am trying to find out the status of my SSL. I spoke with the Medicaid office this morning and was informed that I did not qualify for Medicaid, because of income limits.

Senator Graham, My 14 yr. old son and I receive 840.00 per month from my husbands death of cancer at the age of 32. The income limits for SC Medicaid of 560.00. So therefore I do not qualify. How are two people expected to live off of 560.00 per month? We are having a very rough time right now due to me not working. Without help from local resources we would not be able to pay our rent. Life before cancer was not this way for us.

The best way to describe my situation would be to ask you to visit the website listed here. I did a story on healthcare and the uninsured with CBS news. It aired this past Sunday. <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4546226n>.

On the day I did this interview I was having what I would call a good day. The people from CBS were wonderful and understanding.

I currently am in remission from cancer. But have to go back to MUSC on November 4th to have scans and pray that I am still in remission. I have been in remission for 6 months. During the time I was going through treatment I lost my home and everything I owned, and was homeless for 3 weeks., I now live in a small apt. with my son and am quite blessed to still be here. I am unemployed at this time due to Post Chemo pain and my illness.

I would like for you to please try and help me with getting qualified for Medicaid. I spoke with the person that handles Medicaid applications this morning and she told me that it is

quite sad when people like me that deserve this service is denied, but others get it right away.

I would also like to know if somehow in the future we can try and change our limits and qualifications for Medicaid in SC. So many people do not get these services that need them. And they are honest hard working people that fell on hard times. As I did.

If you could please look into this matter for me it would be greatly appreciated.

I did a clinical trial at MUSC that saved my life, but due to lack of insurance I had to do all of my treatments without a port. Now I have no veins left. I also had to stay home for the whole entire time due to low blood counts from treatment. I could not get the shot that would bring my counts back up because it cost \$10,000.00 per shot. I am thankful to be alive and here writing this letter to you but not sure I will ever get over the pain and mental issues this past year has caused me.

Thank you and have a blessed day.

Sharon L McGovern



112 Union Cemetery Road

Apt # 627

Hilton Head Island SC 29926

843-227-5116



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Log # 0241
✓

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

November 12, 2008

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
530 Johnnie Dods Boulevard, Suite 202
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for contacting our agency on behalf of Ms. Sharon McGovern regarding Medicaid eligibility and her healthcare needs.

A member of our staff has been in direct contact with Mr. McGovern to address her questions and concerns regarding Medicaid eligibility and the rules and regulations governing the program. We also mailed her information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare needs, prescriptions, inpatient hospitalization and daily living expenses.

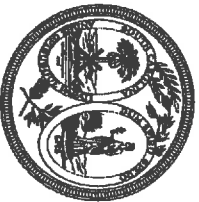
Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/jcol



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Fortner
Director

November 10, 2008

Ms. Sharon McGovern
112 Union Cemetery Road, Apt# 627
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29926

Dear Ms. McGovern:

Senator Lindsey Graham asked our agency to respond to your concerns about Medicaid eligibility and your healthcare needs.

As you are aware, your current family income is above the allowable limit for the Low Income Families program. Income is based on gross earnings and does not allow deductions for taxes, utilities, car payments or other living expenses. Fortunately, coverage for your son, Shane, will continue under the Partners for Healthy Children program.

Thank you for your opinion regarding Medicaid income limitations. Medicaid eligibility is based on federal and state financial and categorical guidelines. Determining appropriate program requirements and those families that have the greatest need is always challenging. Budget constraints are also a major factor.

Your letter also mentions that you applied for coverage through the Social Security Administration's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Individuals eligible for SSI automatically receive Medicaid benefits. To inquire about the status of your SSI application, please contact the SSA at 1-800-772-1213.

Enclosed is information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare needs, prescriptions, and inpatient hospitalization. If you have other questions about the Medicaid program, please contact Jennifer Lynch at (803) 898-3965 or toll free at 1-888-549-0820, Ext. 3965. We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Alicia Jacobs

Alicia Jacobs
Acting Deputy Director

AJ/col
Enclosures