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Subject: Disability Advocacy Day
Location: North Steps, Statehouse Grounds
When: 3/2/2016 11:00:00 AM - 11:15:00 AM

APPROVED BY: NRH on 2/1

EVENT: Disability Advocacy Day

DATE: Wednesday, March 2, 2016

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: North Steps, Statehouse Grounds

LOCATION SET-UP: We will have a podium and microphone set up in the area that circles to the steps from the main entrance. If she comes out of that main door and comes to the front, she will be in the right area.

SCHEDULING CONTACT:

Valarie Bishop
Director, Developmental Disabilities Council
Office of Executive Policy and Programs
(803) 734-0215
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PRIMARY STAFF: Ashton Lee

ADVANCE STAFF:

PURPOSE: Gov. Haley will participate in Disability Advocacy Day by giving a few remarks and reading the Disability Advocacy Proclamation. The topic areas of the event are transportation, employment, supported/independent living, respite, supported decision-making and waiting list reduction.

PRESS: Yes.

PUBLIC: Yes.

INVITED BY: Valarie Bishop, Director, Developmental Disabilities Council

INTRODUCED BY: Valerie Bishop will do the short introduction with Connie Coleman, who is the MC of the event. Connie is the President of the statewide Impact self-advocacy group that is coordinating the event. They plan to focus on what Governor Haley has done for people with developmental disabilities including her continued commitment to Employment, Independent Living and reduction of the waiting list for services.

LENGTH OF SPEAKING: 10 mins. No Q&A. They would like for NH to read the proclamation.

SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:

9:30-10:00 AM: Registration

10:00-10:30 AM: Welcome Assembly on the Statehouse Steps

10:30-10:45 AM: Dr. Beverly A. H. Buscemi

10:45-11:00 AM: Lt. Governor Henry McMaster (tentative)

11:00-11:15 AM: Governor Nikki R. Haley

11:15-11:45 AM: Recognition in the House Chamber

11:45-12:00 PM: DAD Walk

12:00-12:30 PM: Rally on Statehouse Steps

12:00-12:30 PM: Lunch

12:30-1:00 PM: Advocate of the Year Award Presentation

1:15-2:30 PM: State House tours: Sign-in at Registration Table (Limited to 50 people)

2:00 PM: Recognition at the Senate Chamber

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

- It's a tremendous honor to be here with you today.
- It's always special to see a group of people coming together to make a difference, and by raising awareness of the challenges disabled South Carolinians face, you really are making a difference.
- As elected officials and the people who are charged with leading our state, it's our responsibility to make sure your voices are heard.
- My administration is committed to meeting the needs of all South Carolinians, but especially those South Carolinians who are disabled and need a helping hand to live their lives to the fullest.
- That's why my administration continues to support the Exceptional Needs Tax Credit in the budget, which enables special needs students the flexibility and choice they need in education.
 - The Tax Credit provides up to \$10,000 per student for tuition, transportation and text book expenses for exceptional needs students attending independent schools.
 - I also signed a bill earlier this year to provide an extended timeframe for qualifying schools to apply for this program, thus granting greater access and more options to exceptional needs students.
- From somebody with autism to someone with a physical handicap due to trauma, our citizens with disabilities are fully capable of living a meaningful and full life, but some may need an extra bit of support to make sure that happens.
- That's why my Executive Budget proposed \$6.6 million in recurring support to continue directing resources to reduce waiting lists at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, and another \$1.2 million in recurring support to transition individuals from institutional to community care settings.
- But like every other issue South Carolina faces, our people are the reason I know we will see brighter days.
- South Carolinians continue to amaze me with their grace and their love for one another, and the real heroes that are here with us today are those of you who dedicate your lives to serving our citizens with disabilities.

- Thank you for your service to our state and our people, and thank you for letting me be here with you today.

PROCLAMATION WORDING: (Ashton has the signed proclamation)

- WHEREAS,** thousands of South Carolina residents and families are impacted by severe lifelong disabilities including autism, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and intellectual and related disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** people with lifelong disabilities are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members, deserving of respect and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, independence, and personal growth; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolinians with and without disabilities work together, play together, worship together, learn together, and grow together; and
- WHEREAS,** family members, caregivers, and service providers selflessly offer daily care, assistance, supervision, and physical and emotional support to individuals with disabilities to help ensure their full participation in community life; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2016 observance of Disabilities Awareness Month celebrates 27 years of successes of people with disabilities in education, employment, and community activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as

DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to promote increased opportunities for people with disabilities, to recognize the many contributions made by people with disabilities in our communities, and to honor the dedication of the caregivers who bring support and hope to their fellow citizens.