

Amendment: HC1

Representative **HERBKERSMAN** proposes the following amendment:

Department of Health and Human Services/Section 33

Amend

33.bhi. (DHHS: Brain Health Initiative) South Carolina has been identified as one of five states with the most significant gap between an available neurology workforce and the health needs of people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. From funds appropriated, the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to contract with the University of South Carolina to develop and implement a rural brain health network for the purpose of improving brain health, enhancing the quality of care, and increasing statewide access to dementia care. This includes advancing the clinical care of dementia, promoting translational research, improving cardiovascular and brain health, expanding and improving the Alzheimer’s Disease Registry provided for in Section 44-36-10, establishing training and fellowship programs for health care providers, and obtaining a better understanding of population risk factors. The University shall partner and collaborate with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and Clemson University to leverage existing programs to meet the unmet dementia care needs for citizens in rural areas throughout South Carolina including, but not limited to, providing informed clinical care, early detection, early diagnosis disclosure, caregiver support, healthy aging, and education of primary care providers. The ~~School of Medicine~~ University shall also utilize and disseminate the brain health resources through DHEC’s “Take Brain Health to Heart” campaign as a tool for community education. The department annually shall evaluate this initiative, including all partnerships and agreements, to assess its effectiveness in achieving expected outcomes.