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April 26, 2016

HAND-DELIVERED

James Kirby, Commissioner
SC Commission for the Blind
1430 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Commissioner Kirby:

Please accept my apology to staff of the Commission for the Blind and the people the Commission serves for cancelling today's meeting to provide public comment to the Healthcare Subcommittee of the House Legislative Oversight Committee. I would appreciate it if Commission staff would express that apology to the consumers and partners that committed to speak today. Pursuant to House Rule 4.4, no committee shall sit while the House is in session, without obtaining special permission from the Speaker. Because of the May 1st crossover deadline, it became necessary for the House to remain in session later than anticipated on Tuesday, April 26th; it was also imperative that members of the Healthcare Subcommittee remain in the chamber to participate in debate.

Unfortunately, this was not foreseen prior to the media release. Since the meeting was for the purpose of receiving testimony from the public, we could not cancel it before this afternoon's confirmation that it would be preempted. Our staff will contact the agency to work on scheduling another time for the Subcommittee to learn about the Commission's partners and receive public comment. It is our sincere hope that the people impacted by the Commission for the Blind's work, both positively and negatively, will return at that time. Another ongoing opportunity for public input is the "provide feedback about a state agency" link on the General Assembly website, www.scstatehouse.gov. This link is available by clicking on the "Citizen's Interest" portion of the website and then the "House Legislative Oversight Committee Postings and Reports" link. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Signature Redacted

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Committee Chair

cc: The Honorable Nathan Ballentine, Healthcare Subcommittee Chair
The Honorable Mia McLeod, Healthcare Subcommittee Member
The Honorable Walton McLeod, Healthcare Subcommittee Member
The Honorable Bill Taylor, Healthcare Subcommittee Member