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Committees:

Judiciary

Legislative Oversight,

1st Vice Chairman

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Sportsmen's Caucus,
Immediate Past Chair

Women's Caucus,
Past Chair

January 27, 2016

HAND-DELIVERED

The Honorable Nathan Ballentine

Healthcare Subcommittee Chair

Legislative Oversight Committee

P.O. Box 11867

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Chairman Ballentine:

DSS Director Alford stated that the agency is engaged in a "targeted recruitment campaign for foster homes," because of a lack of appropriate placements. Several of my constituents have relayed recent negative experiences with DSS during attempts to become foster parents, and after they have become foster parents — which leads me to believe that the agency has many improvements to make in order to be able to meet the need for foster homes.

I would like to request that the Healthcare Subcommittee inquire into the Department of Social Service's process to become a foster parent. I would also like to request study of the support that approved foster parents receive, and that the Subcommittee make recommendations regarding the process.

If this is not within the scope of the Healthcare Subcommittee's study, please consider requesting that Chairman Newton direct the Legislative Audit Council perform a review of the agency's program evaluation report's data on the foster care process.

With kind regards, I am

Yours truly,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

Laurie Slade Funderburk

Legislative Oversight, 1st Vice Chair

cc: Rep. William Newton Weston, Chairman