

December 14, 2020

The Honorable Henry D. McMaster
Governor of South Carolina
South Carolina Statehouse, First Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of South Carolina for the past three years as Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. It has been the most challenging and most rewarding position of my career. I appreciate greatly your support during my tenure. Over the past three years, we have fixed material weaknesses in our state's Medicaid eligibility and enrollment systems, implemented four major modules of the agency's aging software infrastructure, maintained a strong financial position, and received federal approval for three waivers – two under the Healthy Connections Community Engagement Initiative and the Palmetto Coordinated System of Care – to improve the lives and health outcomes of South Carolinians.

This past year has yielded unprecedented challenges for the state, and your leadership has been essential to balancing the safety of individuals, the economic well being of South Carolinians, and the health and social wellness of all your constituents. Managing the Medicaid program through the COVID-19 public health emergency has been an experience like no other in my lifetime, and South Carolina's preparation and response to the pandemic have positioned the state well.

With vaccine distribution in sight, the agency in the strongest financial position it has seen in over a decade and a half, and a natural pause in initiatives following the election but prior to the start of the next General Assembly, I believe now is an appropriate time to transition leadership at the agency. Accordingly, I submit this letter to you as my resignation, effective January 11, 2021. It has been an honor to serve you and the people of South Carolina and I will continue to support your leadership in any way I can during the remainder of my tenure with the agency.

Best,

Joshua D. Baker

