

Henry McMaster GOVERNOR

Robert M. Kerr DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 8206 > Columbia, SC 29202

www.scdhhs.gov

September 16, 2024

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

Dear Governor McMaster,

One of the most difficult decisions we must make is knowing when to pass on the reins of leadership. That time has arrived for me. I write to notify you of my intent to retire from my position as Director effective November 1, 2024.

When I came on board three and a half years ago, your directive was to build up the bench and reorient the Department of Health and Human Services. I am pleased to say that I believe we have made great headway in accomplishing your charge. In 2021, an employee survey indicated that only 59% of staff knew how they made a difference within the agency. We have since established and embraced an agency mission to be boldly innovative in improving the health and quality of life for South Carolinians. I am proud to relay that the response to that same survey question now stands at 88%.

Under your leadership and guidance, staff have made transformative changes for the state. In behavioral health, they have doubled the number of school based counselors, invested over \$45 million in establishing innovative EmPath crisis stabilization units within hospitals, and made historic collaborative investments of over \$100 million establishing regional inpatient behavioral health hubs. They have stabilized the Medicaid budget while substantially improving provider rates and expanding service arrays. Finally, staff have developed and are executing a comprehensive modernization plan to improve the agency's enterprise and enrollment systems. None of this would have been possible without your vision and unwavering support. They have accomplished much but there is always more to do.

I asked someone recently why they work at Health and Human Services. Their answer was "I want to make a difference in people's lives and I can have a greater impact here than most anywhere I know." It is a humbling privilege to work among such everyday heroes who often go unseen themselves but whose work is clearly visible in the lives of so many. I am convinced this agency has the best workforce in the state. I am equally confident that they are poised to handle the challenges necessary to move us forward and achieve greater things.



Honorable Henry D. McMaster

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It has been my great pleasure and honor to serve the citizens of this state in your administration. With utmost appreciation and gratitude, I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

May God bless this great State we call home.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RM Kerr", written in a cursive style.

Robert M. Kerr

Director