

Jimmy Burton - SC Human Service Prov. Assoc.
864-942-8914

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the South Carolina Human Service Providers Association. The providers want to thank you for your continued support of people with disabilities and special needs. I promise I will take just a couple of minutes of your valuable time.

The providers association feels that every line item of the budget request Dr. Buscemi discussed is important and needed.

But we have a difference of opinion in the priority of the request. We have discussed our concerns with DDSN and the Commission. We are

not in any way doing this as any type of protest but as expressing what we feel is the most critical need of the providers.

Line item 3 deals with the operating revenue for our boards. We are operating with ~~4~~⁰% less dollars than we were in 2008.

This has caused our boards to make some tough decisions on how we operate. For my board this means \$524,000 a year less money than our budgets of 2008.

Everyone has struggled with fuel costs, food costs and everything else that it takes to operate a home.

We have had to delay much needed maintenance and upgrades on facilities. We are driving buses with over 300,000 miles.

The providers association would like to ask you as you deliberate on all of the items to please consider funding the department to return the 2008 rates.

Thank you.