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December 2, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Beth Franco, Executive Director
Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities
3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 208
Columbia, SC 29204-4034
franco@pandasc.org

RE: State Department of Correction Ombudsman

Dear Ms. Franco:

Thank you for sharing your time and for providing input about the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) with the ad hoc committee reviewing the agency. As follow-up from your input, we seek some additional information.

1. In what specific ways does your organization believe an independent ombudsman would improve the operations of SCDC (e.g., collect and report on data, etc.)?
2. Please provide information on other states that have an independent ombudsman involved in state correctional operations including, but not limited to, length of time in existence, budget, number of employees, primary services provided, and specific impacts made.
3. Please provide a brief summary of what your organization believes are best practices from other states that SCDC and the S.C. General Assembly should consider.

Your assistance with these questions would be greatly appreciated. May we hear from you by Tuesday, October 29, if possible? Additionally, the ad hoc subcommittee welcomes any other input or feedback your office would like to provide.

Thank you, again, for your input and participation in the House's legislative oversight process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward R. Tallon Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee