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The Honorable Kirkman Finlay, III
P.O. Box 11684
Columbia 29211

Dear Kirkman,

Tuesday was a very special day.

Not often is mental illness brought to the attention of and then spotlighted in front of an august assembly such as the South Carolina House of Representatives. I would like to thank you for addressing your fellow House members and for arranging for the House to honor NAMI Mid-Carolina's mission and its volunteers' efforts to help people with mental illness and their families. The South Carolina House of Representatives Proclamation is truly a great honor. Thank you.

Your words on Tuesday are a prime example of raising awareness that may prompt someone to seek help for themselves or for a family member or be in a position to help a friend. One never knows what reach one's advocacy will have. Your advocacy on Tuesday will make a continuing difference!

As we've discussed, progress is being made. This year's House Bill H 3952 to help the "gravely disabled is truly a "renaissance" type action which is a fine example of progress. MaryGail Douglas, Beth Bernstein, James Smith, Mia McLeod, and Todd Rutherford, who stood with you, will all have an increased appreciation for helping those with mental illness because of your stepping forward and your effective advocacy. Examples such as these bode well for continuing to make needed progress.

I look forward to working with you to improve the lives of all South Carolina Citizens. I am deeply grateful for your insight into the plight and needs of those with mental illness. Your willingness to then take action makes you a great Champion.

The Proclamation is a great honor. Thank you.

Gratefully,

