



# Shelby County Board of Commissioners

160 N. Main Street • Suite 450 • Memphis, Tennessee 38103

(901) 545-4301

**MIKE RITZ**

*Commissioner*

*District 1, Position 1*

February 5, 2010

Office of Civil Rights, DHHS

Attn: Ms. Ivy Belton

61 Forsyth St. SW #3B70

Atlanta, GA 30303-8909

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

RE: Civil Rights Discrimination Complaint against the State of Tennessee and DHHS  
Concerning the State of Tennessee's Allocation and Use of  
DHHS Funds Relative to Regional Medical Center of Memphis ("Complaint")

Dear Ms. Belton:

As we briefly discussed on January 25, I am an elected County Commissioner for Shelby County, Tennessee. I have used the format of your standard complaint form to format and organize this letter.

## Complainant

As a Shelby County Commissioner, I am Vice Chairman of our Budget and Finance Committee and a member of County Mayor Joe Ford's Regional Medical Center at Memphis (the "MED") Task Force. I am filing this Complaint as a citizen, voter, taxpayer, and elected official in and for Shelby County. I can be reached at the address, phone numbers and email address on this letterhead and at 901-277-6618 (cell) and [mcritz1@comcast.net](mailto:mcritz1@comcast.net). I have filed no previous or other civil rights complaints with DHHS or any other governmental agency concerning this matter. Your Complainant Consent Form is attached. I signed it and give you consent to release the Complaint to any party you see fit. I consider this Complaint to be public information.

## Who is Being Discriminated Against

I am filing this Complaint on behalf of the customers/patients of the MED who are predominately Black, African-American, Hispanic and/or Latino. Because of HIPPA rules and MED procedures, the race and/or ethnicity of the customers/patients is not public information. However, a visit to the MED's Emergency Room, Trauma Center, Burn Center, Newborn Center, or High Risk Obstetrics Center will give any observer the practical and real impression that a great majority of the MED's customers/patients are as noted above. Additionally I file on behalf of the employees who are also predominantly Black, African-American, Hispanic and/or Latino. 69.5% of the MED's staff of 2302 is not white or minority and 65.68% are Black/African-American. If the MED continues to not receive adequate financial resources from the state of Tennessee, the customers/patients will suffer lack of medical care and attention and the employees will not be adequately and fairly compensated and may even lose their jobs.