

Title: **America shouldn't ditch its values when elections come**
 Author:
 Size: 38.75 square inch
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America shouldn't ditch its values when elections come

Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley are all qualified to be president. Their values are America's values. On the Republican side, however, we see candidates expressing views that are out of the mainstream of American politics.

Donald Trump, the frontrunner in polls for the GOP presidential nomination, wants to build a wall to keep Mexicans out of the U.S., wants to send 11 million undocumented people back to their native lands, and wants to ban Muslims from coming to the U.S. and monitoring those who are here, including their mosques.

Ted Cruz, the runner-up in polling, agrees with or has remained silent on virtually all of Trump's proposals. He has pledged to repudiate the internationally approved effort to deal with climate change, to oppose any gun safety measures, to reverse laws allowing same-sex marriage, and, of course, to reverse the Affordable Care Act.

Immigration, freedom of religion, care for our planet, gun safety in the face of gun-related massacres, respect for individuals'

right to love and marry whom they wish, and health care for all are values which have made and are making our country great.

Enough has been said and written about each of these hallmarks, but what needs to be stressed is how the Republican Party has been hijacked by Trump and Cruz, who are taking this once great national political party out of the mainstream.

No, our country has not changed; some who align themselves with Republicans hate our president and, by transfer, those issues he espouses.

No, government has not failed us; government led by Democrats, under difficult and divided circumstances, has put our economy back on track after a Republican administration nearly bankrupted America.

Government has enacted and affirmed health care, making us consistent with other Western democracies. Government has expanded Medicaid; some states have accepted this assistance for their neediest citizens. Others, such as South Carolina, have refused this federal funding out of disdain for most things coming from Washington, but not when it comes to holding out both hands for federal assistance to alleviate the devastation from the terrible floods that hit the Midlands particularly hard. What leaders would accept flood relief, but refuse health care for hundreds of thousands of South Carolin-

ians who have none? Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Nikki Haley and Tim Scott.

The other Republican presidential candidates are very conservative but remain in the center-right lane of the American political highway.

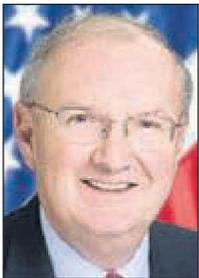
How has Trump turned campaign discourse into talk-radio conversation? His vulgarities in describing Clinton's loss to President Barack Obama in 2008 and his anti-woman description of Clinton's bathroom break during the last Democratic debate as "disgusting" are just two examples.

Despite his protestation, the latter is just another sample of his disdain for women. Remember his statement about fellow Republican Carly Fiorina: "Who could vote for that face?" To demean and bully are his trademarks.

So, this campaign has entered a phase where the leading Republican candidate says whatever outlandish fabrication he wishes, then denies it means what he says. Trump's values and Cruz's, too, are not consistent with the values of our country or of the three Democratic candidates.

Hopefully, the Republican Party will nominate a candidate for president whose values are consistent with that party's heritage.

Blaine Lotz of Hilton Head Island may be reached at gblotz@yahoo.com.



BLAINE LOTZ

Special to the Packet
and Gazette

Title: **GOP picks Haley to rebut Obama's State of Union**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
 Size: 35.49 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



GOP picks Haley to rebut Obama's State of Union

Critic of the Obama administration is first from S.C. to deliver the response and is a possible VP pick

BY ANDREW SHAIN
 ashain@thestate.com

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, coming off a year where she gained national attention for her handling of the Charleston church slayings, will deliver the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address Jan. 12.

Haley is calling her nationally televised speech from Columbia an "address" rather than a "response," as the political counterpoints have been called since they began in 1966. Haley is the first South Carolinian to deliver the State of the Union response.

"This is a time of great challenges for our country, but also of great opportunities," she said in a statement. "I intend to speak about both."

The Lexington Republican, considered a possible vice presidential pick, is heading into the middle of her second term as governor of a state that holds the South's first GOP presidential primary.

The opposition party's State of the Union response has played into presidential politics in recent years.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., gave the address a year before he was picked as Mitt Romney's vice presidential running mate in 2012. U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., delivered

the 2013 response to Obama and is running for the White House this year.

Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, has been called a rising star in the GOP since she became South Carolina's first female and first minority governor in 2011. She gave a prime-time speech during the 2012 Republican National Convention.

Haley's political stature has grown since this summer, when she successfully called for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the State House grounds after a state senator and eight other parishioners were gunned down at Emanuel AME Church June 17. An avowed racist, who had posed with a rebel flag online, was charged in those killings, which shocked the nation.

In his last State of the Union, Obama plans to deliver what the White House has called a non-traditional address that will focus on the nation's challenges, rather than push new initiatives.

During her tenure as the nation's youngest governor, Haley has criticized Washington politicians and the Democratic-controlled White House for what she has called burdensome regulations and legal overreach.

Most recently, she has fought

against settling Syrian refugees in South Carolina and opposed possible plans to move Guantanamo Bay detainees to a Navy brig outside Charleston, citing security concerns.

Haley also has refused to expand Medicaid under the federal health-care insurance law that was the signature piece of legislation passed under Obama.

Haley was chosen to give the GOP response by Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

"Not only has Gov. Haley fought to bring opportunity and prosperity to the people of her state, but she's also demonstrated how bringing people together can bring real results," McConnell said in a statement. "Gov. Haley knows the American dream and wants to see every American share in it."

The address likely will curtail any plans for Haley to travel to Arizona for the national college football championship game Monday night between Clemson University, her alma mater, and the University of Alabama.

Haley, a Clemson accounting graduate who often attends games at Memorial Stadium, traveled to Florida last week to watch the Tigers' semifinal win over Oklahoma.

Title: **GOP picks Haley to rebut Obama's State of Union**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
 Size: 46.03 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



GOP picks Haley to rebut Obama's State of Union

Critic of the administration is first from South Carolina to deliver response

Haley a possible VP pick after her handling of the Charleston shooting

Governor, chosen by Capitol Hill leaders, will give the address from Columbia

BY ANDREW SHAIN
 ashain@thestate.com

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FROM PAGE 3A

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SEE HALEY, 7A

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Title: **Rule changes target painkiller addiction in SC**
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX The Associated Press
 Size: 25.88 square inch
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



Rule changes target painkiller addiction in SC

By SEANNA ADCOX

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Most doctors in South Carolina will soon be required to consult a statewide database of patients' medical history as a way to combat the state's rampant prescription painkiller problem.

The changes will direct any doctor who wants to bill either Medicaid or the state health plan to use the database that's been voluntary since 2008, said Christian Soura, director of the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

Announcements will likely go out in February on the mandate, which starts April 1, he said.

The S.C. Medical Association supports the change, but "there will be some doctors unhappy about yet another step thrown into the mix," said its CEO, state Rep. Todd Atwater.

"Some say it will slow me down another minute and a

half I don't have, but really?" said Atwater, R-Lexington. "Sometimes you have to have a little inconvenience to do the right thing and get some of these opioids off the streets."

The mandate will come three years after Inspector General Patrick Maley recommended it in a report, describing high-prescribers as either motivated by money or naively helping "doctor shoppers." In response to his report, Gov. Nikki Haley created the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council, which similarly concluded one year ago that mandating the database's use is key to combatting abuse of OxyContin, Percocet and other opioids.

Similar mandates enacted in New York and Tennessee in 2012 resulted in drops of 75 percent and 36 percent, respectively, a year later in patients seeing multiple

doctors for the same drugs, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2014 Vital Signs report.

That report ranked South Carolina 11th highest nationwide in prescribing painkillers, with 102 prescriptions written for every 100 people.

"When you look at the impact of other states with similar policies, it's harder to say, 'I don't want to spend another minute or two in front of the computer,'" Soura said of doctors' decreasing resistance.

A law passed in June 2014 required pharmacists to report daily on the controlled substances they sell, to ensure the database is regularly updated. But a clause specified that doctors and pharmacists don't have to actually consult it before prescribing or dispensing medicine.

Title: **Charities to be able to help more under law**
 Author: SEANNA ADCOX ASSOCIATED PRESS
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Charities to be able to help more under law

New measure
took effect on
New Year's Day

SEANNA ADCOX

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA - A new law written to assist Habitat for Humanity's home-building mission may be a boon in South Carolina's post-flood rebuilding efforts.

The law that took effect New Year's Day allows charities that build or renovate homes for needy families to buy those construction materials free of sales tax. When they passed the exemption overwhelmingly in June, legislators could not have foreseen the benefit to a state ravaged by historic flooding months later.

The measure's main sponsor, Rep. Garry Smith, said he introduced it because it didn't make sense to tax the work of a charity that seeks to build homes and hope in communities.

"Obviously, we had no idea anything like that would happen," Smith, R-Simpsonville, said of the October storm. "If it does provide some benefit to people who have lost their homes, that's great. Every little bit does help."

Greg Thomas, director of the state's association for 36 Habitat affiliates, called the law's timing "an absolute bless-

ing." While the state sales tax is 6 percent, local taxes push it to at least 7 percent in most counties.

Eliminating that cost on construction materials will save Habitat between \$2,500 and \$4,000 for each home built. Ordinarily, Habitat affiliates build roughly 100 homes and repair another 100 annually statewide, Thomas said.

"That's extra that could be used for additional repairs on other homes, particularly in this flood period and disaster-response time," he said.

It's unclear how much the law could help flood victims. Other charities didn't know about the exemption when contacted by The Associated Press, though they were eager to learn more.

"No one is talking it up yet," Thomas said.

How the exemption applies may help explain that. The law defines needy as individuals or families making up to 80 percent of their county's median income. In hard-hit Richland County, for example, household income needs to be less than \$39,000; in Charleston County, less than

\$41,000; in Clarendon County, less than \$21,200, according to Census data.

"It's almost poverty-level folks, so if you're a middle-income family with damage, those homes aren't eligible," Thomas said.

For Habitat-built homes, determining eligibility isn't an issue. Since the charity acts as the mortgage company, the family's financials are reviewed before approval. But it's an uncomfortable question for post-flood work, which often involves mold remediation and new flooring, insulation, and dry-wall, Thomas said.

"Without having a charitable organization ask, 'How much money do you make?' you have to go on the value of the home and make assumptions," he said.

Flood victims in the 24 counties covered by October's emergency declaration have until Monday to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for federal assistance. But that aid is limited.

As of Dec. 27, FEMA had inspected nearly 81,300 structures for damage, resulting in \$78

million in approved aid for 26,108 applicants. That's an average of less than \$3,000 per family. The maximum grant a family can receive is \$33,000, according to the agency.

The One SC relief fund, which Gov. Nikki Haley launched in November, awarded \$500,000 to 13 charities in its initial round of grants announced Dec. 21, with each receiving between \$25,000 and \$150,000. Those charities, including two Habitat affiliates, are providing an additional \$2.5 million total from other sources to rebuild or remove mold from about 350 homes, said JoAnn Turnquist, president of Central Carolina Community Foundation, which is housing the fund.

The nonprofit is not releasing how much more money has been raised, though Turnquist says people continue to donate. Charities have until Friday to apply for a second-round grant.

"We're hopeful the fund will continue as long as it's needed," she said. "We've been told to prepare for a two-to-three-year recovery period."

Title: **Interim roads chief driving SC Transportation Department**
 Author: CASSIE COPE THE STATE
 Size: 113.46 square inch
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Interim roads chief driving SC Transportation Department

Hall likely to become permanent secretary

CASSIE COPE

THE STATE

COLUMBIA- Christy Hall knows how to patch a pot hole.

Step 1. Shovel out the loose material.

Step 2. Pour in new asphalt.

Step 3. Compact the repair.

In addition to fixing pot holes, Hall – the interim secretary of the S.C. Department of Transportation – also has designed roads, overhauled the finances of the state’s roads agency and managed its 4,500 workers through two natural disasters.

Next month, Hall is likely to become the permanent secretary of the state Transportation Department.

Senators, who must confirm Hall’s appointment, point to her experience at all levels of the agency as qualifying the 44-year-old to take over, adding she likely will zip through the confirmation process, which begins Jan. 20.

Then, Hall officially will head the agency she has worked at for more than two decades.

Rising through the ranks Hall grew up on a small farm in rural Abbeville County, learning the importance of hard work. Her mother worked as a supervisor at a shirt factory.

Hall says seeing her mother in charge of producing quality work in a timely manner helped her understand the production-related requirements of running a business. “Those lessons definitely have followed me,” said Hall, who attended Calhoun Falls High School.

Wanting to become a math teacher, Hall went to Lander College, studying education and math. But during a student-teaching stint, Hall decided she did

not have a gift for teaching.

So she transferred to Clemson University in pursuit of a civil engineering degree – not common for women in the early ’90s. Often, Hall said, she was one of only three women in her engineering classes.

The S.C. Department of Transportation recruited Hall out of college.

After working in Columbia, Hall did a six-month stint in the field in Greenville,

wearing a hard hat and steel-toed boots as she watched contractors build roads.

Eventually, she worked her way up to oversee construction at the Transportation Department’s Greenville district office. There, she oversaw operations in Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties, managing 538 employees and a \$16.6 million budget.

Paying backlogged bills In November 2011, Robert St. Onge, then head of the Transportation Department, asked Hall to come back to Columbia to help fix the agency’s backlog of unpaid invoices.

The first thing Hall did was determine how much the agency owed – more than \$90 million.

S.C. Treasurer Curtis Loftis says Hall “managed the situation perfectly.”

Hall was brutally honest with everybody, Loftis said, adding he was tough on her, too, because he wanted answers.

“In government, when you start asking people about money, the answers become very slippery,” Loftis said. “Not once did I think Christy was anything

See CHIEF, Page 7A



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 Author: CASSIE COPE THE STATE
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Chief

Continued from Page 3A

other than forthright with me.”

The Transportation Department’s financial team laid out how much the bills were and what type – utilities, contractors, consultants. Hall realized solving the backlog would require prioritizing payments.

Instead of paying the oldest invoices first, the agency began paying bills that qualified for federal reimbursement. Then, it used that federal money to help pay other bills.

“We needed to spend money to make money,” said Hall, who whittled down the agency’s past-due bills to zero without requesting a bailout from the S.C. Legislature.

Responding to natural disastersThe financial disaster previewed a natural disaster Hall had to manage next.

In February 2014, snow and ice covered much of South Carolina. Hall, who

just had taken over as the Transportation Department’s acting secretary after St. Onge resigned, dispatched Transportation workers to clear roads of trees and limbs that had broken under the weight of ice.

In October, when record rains and flooding hit South Carolina, Hall once more was acting secretary, after the resignation of secretary Janet Oakley.

The Transportation Department was faced with having to repair more than 500 roads while it also started removing debris for flooded-out residents with water-ruined mattresses, appliances and furniture.

The agency erased the lines it normally uses to divide the state into service districts and brought in crews from counties not hit as hard to help in disaster areas.

Hall, who lives in Saluda, stayed in Columbia for six days, sleeping in her

Transportation Department office and spending time at the state Emergency Management headquarters, briefing the public daily.

By the end of October, Hall’s agency had reopened the majority of the closed roads. As of mid-December, only 53 – requiring major repairs, including replacements and dam repairs – remained closed.

After the flooding, Gov. Nikki Haley formally nominated Hall to lead the agency full time.

Taking the helmMost legislators give Hall high marks for her agency’s response to the flood, said state Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley, who heads the Senate Transportation Committee that will hold a hearing about Hall’s appointment in January.

Grooms expects a unanimous vote by committee members to approve Hall. He touts her knowledge of how the

roads agency works – from engineering to finance. “Christy knows from Day 1 what’s effective and what’s not.”

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, has nothing but the highest praise for Hall, noting she came up through the ranks at the roads agency.

Hall says those ranks inspire her.

Transportation Department workers “put their life on the line to keep the state’s traffic moving,” she said. “Whether it’s standing next to 300 degree (Fahrenheit) asphalt being used to pave a lane or quickly patching a pothole, standing next to traffic zooming by.”

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CURTIS LOFTIS, TREASURER

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THE STATE

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Title: **Lawmakers talk infrastructure dilemma**
 Author: BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND, MAAYAN SCHECHTER
 Size: 29.29 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635

Lawmakers talk infrastructure dilemma

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND,
 MAAYAN SCHECHTER

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Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles about the upcoming session of the South Carolina General Assembly. Each member of Aiken County's delegation spoke with the *Aiken Standard* for an interview, except for Don Wells, who did not return comment by press time.

While the South Carolina Legislature appropriated funding for state roads this past session, lawmakers were unable to compromise on a long-term funding plan.

Members of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation agree the condition of the state's roads and bridges remain one of the biggest and most frustrating issues facing the state's General Assembly this upcoming session.

Legislators lamented that debates over gas tax, flat tax and income tax rates prevented a long-standing roads package from reaching Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. In addition, Haley previously said she would veto any gas tax in-

crease unless it was offset by a reduction in the state's income tax.

The outcome last year was a quick fix to jump-start improving the state's roads and highways. More than \$300 million in supplemental funds are being used on roads, including \$70 million specifically for the state's Volvo acquisition.



Corley

Augusta, believe it will take better negotiating from the Senate to produce a concrete bill.

"The problem is that there are no Democrats and only a handful of Republicans who are willing to address any issue without a tax increase being the only solution," Corley said.

More on the gas tax, other issues

The Senate and House crafted separate

versions of how to fund the state's roads and highways with both calling for an increase in gas tax and vehicle fees. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, spoke about the House plan, which included raising the gas tax by 10 cents per gallon, increasing vehicle fees and an income tax break.

Overall, the plan would have generated \$400 million annually for roads.

The Senate amended the bill to allocate \$700 million for roads and raise the gas tax by 12 cents without any changes to the state income tax.

Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, said one issue in passing a roads bill was differing opinions among Senators, which prevented the Senate from presenting a

Please see **DILEMMA**, Page 10A

Coming up

Today: Infrastructure

Tuesday: Education

Wednesday: Domestic violence

Thursday: Guns

Friday: Body cameras

Saturday: Legislative goals

Title: **SC message to world: No more plutonium**

Author:

Size: 26.97 square inch

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



SC message to world: No more plutonium

Federal government must clean up the existing problem at the Savannah River Site.

Here we go again. The federal government wants South Carolina to be the dumping ground for more of the world's plutonium, a toxic nuclear weapons component.

At the same time, it is failing miserably in its promise to process and remove 12 metric tons of plutonium already at the Savannah River Site near Aiken.

South Carolina should fight with every tool it has to stop a new plan by the U.S. Department Energy to import nearly a ton of plutonium from the Pacific Rim and North America to SRS.

Not an ounce more should arrive until the existing problem is resolved.

The news of new shipments is part of an old shell game. In it, the federal government tries to move bad things around because it has enacted no national plan. And it repeatedly fails to live up to its promises and responsibilities to communities around the country.

Gov. Nikki Haley said a lawsuit against the federal government may be needed. Good for her. But that tactic — like

a previous governor's threat to lie down in the road to stop plutonium shipments, as well as previous lawsuits, and laws threatening steep fines against the federal government — has not yet resolved this national problem.

That's why it would be foolish to trust a new Energy Department proposal to ship about six metric tons of plutonium now at SRS to an existing DOE disposal site in New Mexico.

That would be great, if it could be believed. The proposal faces numerous hurdles, including funding and opposition in New Mexico.

Meanwhile, the government's program to convert weapons-grade plutonium at SRS into a mixed oxide fuel (MOX) that could be used in commercial nuclear reactors is years behind schedule and billions of dollars over budget.

So into this quagmire stumbles the federal government with the suggestion to do what? Bring in more plutonium. It's like the theater of the absurd. But it is a serious problem that has been bungled for many decades.

South Carolina has done more than its share to be a patriotic good neighbor to the nation's nuclear program. Enough is enough.



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Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

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The measure's main sponsor, Rep. Garry Smith, said he introduced it because it didn't make

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Please see LAW on 4A

MORE INSIDE

A look at flood-related benefits for those who couldn't work. **4A**

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LAW

Continued from 3A

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RESIDENTS RECEIVE \$1.2 MILLION IN FLOOD-RELATED JOBLESS BENEFITS

COLUMBIA — South Carolinians who were unable to work amid the October flooding disaster have received more than \$1.2 million in unemployment benefits.

The (Columbia) State newspaper reports that more than 2,100 people received flood-related jobless benefits. According to the state Department of Employment and Workforce, nearly 6,100 people had applied after the Oct. 2-5 storm that closed roads and businesses.

Business owners, employees and the self-employed could receive benefits if they could prove they lost income because of the disaster.

Agency spokesman Bob Bouyea says some applicants were determined ineligible because they left their jobs before the flood or their employers had previously scheduled a shutdown during that period.

Bouyea says most applicants sought a week or two of benefits.

The most claims by far came from hard-hit Richland County.

Title: **Bill would limit Viagra-type drugs**
 Author: CASSIE COPE CCOPE@THESTATE.COM
 Size: 67.42 square inch
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Bill would limit Viagra-type drugs

McLeod knows
proposal is
a 'long shot'

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A Democratic lawmaker from Richland County acknowledges her proposal to make it more difficult to get medication to treat erectile dysfunction likely will to go nowhere. But state Rep. Mia McLeod says she wants to send a message to the GOP-controlled General Assembly about legislating about the bodies of South Carolinians.

McLeod said her bill — one of most controversial introduced before the session starts in 10 days — is her way of fighting proposals that would restrict abortions in the state.

"It's not a joke," she said.

A top House Republican sees little humor in McLeod's bill.

House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister, R-Greenville, compared her proposal to a political cartoon — "Entertaining, but kind of sad that someone would spend the time to draft and introduce that bill."

McLeod's proposal won't stop GOP-led efforts to limit abortions, including a ban 20 weeks into a pregnancy that is close to final passage.

"The caucus is going to support some pro-life legislation as we have done in the past," Bannister said.

McLeod knows her bill to limit erectile dysfunction medication — including Viagra and Cialis, part of a \$4 billion-a-year

worldwide industry — is a long shot.

"In a male-dominated Legislature is it likely to pass?"

McLeod asked.

"No."

But she added her bill, along with anti-

abortion proposals, waste lawmakers' time, energy and taxpayer money.

McLeod has mentioned her conversation-creating bill in fundraising pitches for her 2016 state Senate campaign. She proposes that doctors must clear several hurdles before prescribing erectile dysfunction medication, including:

- » Referring a patient to a sex therapist
- » Conducting a cardiac stress test
- » Notifying the patient of the drug risks

» Obtaining a notarized affidavit from at least one of the patient's sexual partners that states the patient has experienced symptoms of erectile dysfunction during the previous 90 days

McLeod said her experience on a special House panel that investigated the state's two Planned Parenthood clinics this fall fueled her to file her erectile dysfunction bill.

The panel found the South Carolina clinics were not involved in donor tissue programs, a source of national political controversy this year, McLeod said.

The committee has not finished working, said state Rep. Ga-

ry Clary, a Pickens Republican who chairs the panel. But the investigation found, so far, that no state money is being spent to fund Planned Parenthood.

Another panel of three senators and three state representatives will begin working out the differences on a proposal to prohibit abortions at 20 weeks — instead of the current 24 weeks — soon after legislators return

Jan. 12.

Lawmakers on the committee are working out possible exemptions for rape and incest and the definition of fetal anomaly, said state Sen. Brad Hutto, an Orangeburg Democrat who sits on the panel.

Once a deal is reached, lawmakers will vote again on the bill. If approved, the ban would head to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's desk for her signature to become law.

Even if a 20-week ban passes, McLeod expects attempts to restrict abortion to continue.

"I don't see an end in sight," she said. "That's troubling to say the least."

McLeod's proposal highlights how some lawmakers advocate for keeping the government out of people's lives — except when it comes to restrictions for women, Hutto said.

Women's health decisions should be left up to the woman, her doctor and her faith, Hutto said.

By proposing to restrict access to erectile dysfunction medication, McLeod said she wants legislators to think about abortion differently and broaden discussions to include men's sexual health.

If some lawmakers are going to insist upon regulating some issues over reproductive rights, then McLeod said, "We should govern it all."

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