

310 Snow Street
Greer, SC 29651
December 1, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

Several years ago, while working in Spartanburg, I suggested to Senator Glenn Reese that South Carolina government create a telephone "hotline" for state employees to report evidence of fraud, theft or corruption in state government agencies. State employees can be a valuable source of information about wrongdoing in state agencies or their contracts with other parties. Senator Reese forwarded my suggestion to the members of the State Budget and Control Board for their consideration.

A fraud telephone hotline and webpage now exist in the South Carolina Office of Inspector General. But many citizens, including some state government employees, are apparently unaware of its existence, thus greatly reducing its effectiveness.

To address this problem, I offered suggestions to Representative Rita Allison of how the fraud hotline/webpage could be better publicized, especially to state employees. Announcements about it now appear prominently on state government websites and portals frequently used by state employees, including MySCEmployee, the Public Employee Benefits Authority (PEBA), the South Carolina Enterprise Information System (SCEIS), and the State Government page of SC.gov.

May I offer the following suggestion for your consideration? Because the fraud hotline/webpage may be used by all citizens, not just state government employees, would you be interested in briefly mentioning the existence and purpose of the fraud hotline/webpage in your 2016 State of the State speech? The fraud hotline/webpage is one more step toward better accountability and transparency in state government, and it is one that all citizens can directly participate in using.

Also, the fraud hotline/webpage could be inexpensively publicized statewide with brief public service announcements (PSAs) on educational radio and television stations. It could routinely be printed in government documents used by the public, such as the instruction booklet for state income tax returns.

Citizens' use of the fraud hotline/webpage has the potential to help save tax dollars now lost to fraud, theft and corruption. Hopefully, it will serve as a deterrent to help prevent these problems too. With more than thirty years of experience as a state government employee, I know how urgently these measures are needed in our state.

Thank you for your leadership toward better government in South Carolina.

Very truly yours,



Thomas A. McAbee, Ph.D.