



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 8, 2016

The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Speaker Lucas and Members of the House of Representatives,

Today, I am vetoing and returning without my approval R287, H.5270 **because the government should not serve as a dues collector for private organizations.**

Undoubtedly, the Society of Former Agents of the State Law Enforcement Division – **established less than two months ago and only one day before this bill was filed** – will provide some benefit to those individuals who choose to become members. Therefore, this group should have no issue collecting dues through private means like the overwhelming majority of other private advocacy organizations. Some will argue that state law provides for this service for three other long-standing organizations and therefore it is only equitable to add another. Such an argument would support an unfunded and state-run collections agency for all manner of non-profits.

For these reasons, I ask that you sustain my veto and require private organizations to use private means to collect membership dues used to bestow private benefits to its members.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki R. Haley". The signature is stylized and fluid, with the first name "Nikki" and last name "Haley" clearly visible.

Nikki R. Haley