



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 7, 2011

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
506 Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House,

I am vetoing H.4149, R79, a bill that allows the Colleton County School Board to issue general obligation bonds for school operation expenses to defray the loss of stimulus funds.

As stated in my letter to the General Assembly on May 17, 2011, my objection to this type of legislation is based on basic principles of finance – **we should not fund short-term operational costs with long-term debt backed by taxpayers. Having disastrous effects in other states, like California, such financing schemes are simply unsustainable**, which turn debt-service into a back-door education tax that allows local school districts to live outside of their means. Rather than relying on a finite stream of one-time stimulus funds for recurring expenses, school districts should have better managed their budgets and prepared for the end of this funding source.

While we are sympathetic to schools and local governments struggling through tough economic times, we cannot support further burdening taxpayers who are also struggling to make ends meet.

For these reasons, I am vetoing H.4149, R79.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/sp/rs

cc: Colleton County Delegation