



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 14, 2011

The Honorable Ken Ard
President of the Senate
State House, First Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I am vetoing S.588, R81, a bill that creates a statewide system for acute stroke management and a process for identifying, classifying, and certifying hospitals as primary stroke centers.

I am vetoing S.588, R81, because this bill's narrow focus both grows government ineffectively and falls short of providing a comprehensive care network for acute cardiac and vascular emergencies. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) already regulates the capabilities of hospitals and manages programs focused at heart health and stroke prevention. The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) already received funding to encourage rural development of both prevention and acute care treatment. Therefore, **state agencies have existing mechanisms to develop and implement a state plan for acute care and prevention, not just stroke care as this bill narrowly addresses, and should not need an additional half-million dollars in recurring appropriations to do so.**

I am in support of a broad-based seamless emergency response network thoughtfully designed to provide life saving care to victims of stroke, trauma, heart attack and other time sensitive illnesses. **This is especially critical in rural areas** where travel distances to trauma and specialty centers are greater. To this end, I am directing the SCDHHS to work closely with stakeholders statewide to review our prevention and treatment systems for time sensitive illnesses to develop an integrated prevention and treatment model.

For the reasons stated above, I am vetoing S.588, R81.

Sincerely,

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

Nikki R. Haley