



State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

July 24, 2015

Mr. Austin O'Bryhim
630 Skylark Drive, Suite O
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

Dear Mr. O'Bryhim,

On the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2015, the world witnessed a senseless tragedy at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in our beloved Charleston, South Carolina.

Heartbroken, words fail us as we seek to make sense of this unexpected loss of life at one of our places of worship. We will never understand what motivates anyone to commit such a vile and hateful act, but our hearts and minds remain fixed on the nine families and healing our state. The families' grace and strength set a powerful example for us all, and the response of the people of South Carolina helped us strengthen our love for each other.

Even in the midst of our grief, South Carolina set about the process of healing by hugging our neighbors, holding vigils, honoring those we lost, and falling to our knees in prayer. We will continue to come together as a state, as a unified people, and never forget those we lost.

Michael, Rena, Nalin, and I join countless others all over the country in praying for strength during this time of healing and offering our condolences and support to the families affected. God bless.

My very best,

Nikki
Nikki R. Haley

NRH/kh

*Austin,
Thank you for
your kind and thoughtful
note. It would be my
pleasure to shake your hand
one day.*