

The Hon. Nikki R. Haley
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

February 13, 2015

Governor Haley:

I graduated from South Carolina State University in 2006. The experiences I had there had a major influence on my life and helped make me the woman I am now. It pains me to see that an institution I called home for four years is in the dire straits it's in. Creative solutions from the General Assembly and from your office are required to get my alma mater back on track.

The first bill proposed by a couple of House Ways and Means subcommittee members is not it. Closing the institution sends the wrong message—not that South Carolina is serious about cleaning house in Orangeburg, but that it is willing to just give up on a public university, let alone the state's only public historically black university. South Carolina's motto "while we breathe, we hope," giving up just isn't in South Carolina's nature is not the spirit of this state and is a contrast to the recent events regarding the university.

The Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce stated in a 2012 study that the university generates \$187 million to the local economy. This House proposal would spread up to 3,000 students across the state; displace hundreds of jobs inside the university's loyal and long standing staff and employees as well creating a negative economic impact on the Orangeburg community; closing South Carolina State University will halt all research and research grants there that are currently in production and will jeopardize the university's SACS accreditation more than it already has. It is, without irony, one of Orangeburg County's largest job creators.

We need real and logical resolutions for SCSU's financial crisis that all residents of this state and supporters of the university can agree and stand behind on. Shutting down the only public HBCU in the state of South Carolina is an insult to the school's history, success, and to the black community. It sends a message that the state of South Carolina does not support the school's students and faculty, African Americans, the Orangeburg community, and the supporters of the university.

Sincerely,



Bryanta Booker-Maxwell
Class of 2006