

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, THE GOVERNOR and UNEMPLOYMENT

Anyone can stand on a platform and declare that they will do what they must and make people believe them in order to gain popularity so they can obtain a vote or an office or even financial support. They promise the world and once they get what they are after they no longer need to worry about what they promised but they do need to make some changes so that it looks like they did something.

We have all heard this before and we see it on a day to day basis from those we believe and trust the most...our President, Mayor, business officials and of course our Governor. We see it because we have to face their lies each and every day but what do they see? Well not much they are too busy coming up with more lies and pacifiers so they can retain their office.

So let's bring reality to them, the Governors stance on the unemployment issue is or was, what was it that she said a while back?

“When this Administration came into office, just over a year ago, with unemployment in double digits and growing, our focus was almost singular--jobs. The reason is fairly simple: if you give a person a job, you take care of a family. And we have a lot of families to take care of in South Carolina. The good news is we've made great progress this past year. The bad news is we still have a ways to go. But my pledge to each of you sitting before me tonight, and more importantly, to the 4.6 million South Carolinians outside of these walls, is that I will not rest until we've created a climate in which every citizen of this state who wants a job, has a job”.

I really like that last statement. I am surprised that she is even functioning because of lack of sleep if she actually meant what she said. I bet you she sleeps every night goes to parties and spends time with her family. More so I bet she had a wonderful Christmas and there is not a thing she wouldn't get or do for her kids. Sounds like resting to me. But let's see how the outside world is doing shall we.

The last two Christmases I had to go to church charities so my kids could have some kind of Christmas, I have to continuously tell my kids “No honey you can't have a candy bar I can't afford it”. I lay awake in my bed night after night trying to figure out where the money is going to come from to support my family.

So who isn't getting the rest here, lets change that “I will not rest” in the above statement to “you will not rest” and then the truth is a little more honored here. I am a citizen of this state and I want a job but I do not have one let's see how much the Governor and the state really care.

I came to this state in 2013, I have a family of 5, my wife and myself and my 3 children ages 12, 8 and 19 months. We came out here to be with the only family members we have left. We came from Texas and I was working for a large Oil and Gas company for 12 years until I got laid off. That resulted in losing our house, selling most of what we owned and exhausting my 401 k and savings just trying to stay alive. It takes a minimum of \$45,000.00 a year gross to support my family which breaks down to about \$21.00 an hour.

We were told of all the jobs that were available in South Carolina and how great of a place it is to live so we set out to start a new life. We got here Oct 1st 2013. I got a job in York after hunting for a job for 1 month. It offered me \$14.00 an hour with a promise of a raise to \$18.00 an hour after 60 days neither wages was enough to support two people much less 5. Dec 26th 2013 on the cusp of the end of my 60 days and my raise I was laid off along with 4 others. 2 months later they hired some kid at \$14.00 to replace me.

I did find a job at Ft Jackson for a 6 month contract and of course after the 6 months I was unemployed again. So I filed for unemployment and that is what got me to start using the wondering job site provided by the state.

I started looking at the listings on SCWORKS and one thing I did notice was the posting dates of the jobs listed. Keep in mind that this is going on June 2014, I was getting job listings that were posted as far back as 3-2012. Even now here it is Feb 2015 and they are showing listing as far back as Jan 2014.

So I contacted the state and of course got a dog and pony show answer, they keep them on there as the companies are always looking, OK , I will expect that I guess. So in June of 2014 I submitted approx. 60 resumes off the SC works web site but never heard a word from any of them. So I turn to the State and talked to some people there and ask for help to get a job and what can I do.

I was told that our Governor had created this wonderful thing to help our veterans obtain employment, part of the article read,

“Making Operation Palmetto Employment happen has been a great team effort involving Gov. Haley, the Department of Employment and Workforce and the National Guard, and it proves that South Carolina is dedicated to helping our military members from all branches and services,” said Maj. Gen. Les Eisner, deputy adjutant general.”

“Gov. Nikki Haley said. “This program benefits everybody involved — hard-working South Carolinians will find jobs, and the businesses hiring them are getting the best employees around.”

Haley was joined in making the announcement by representatives from the S.C. National Guard and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce.”

And then the employment director chimed in with;

“Our unemployment rate for veterans is already well below the national average, but every time I see Gov. Haley, she wants to know how we’re going to get it down to zero,” said the employment department’s director, Cheryl Stanton.

The overall jobless rate for veterans in South Carolina is 6.9%, but the rate climbs to 8% for younger veterans who have served since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, officials said. The state’s jobless rate is 6.6%.”

Let's take a different poll on the unemployment numbers; there are two I would like to mention.

1. Let's take a poll of those employed and getting a wage to support their families. How many people are out there flipping burgers, washing dishes and getting a wage under \$10.00 an hour and they can't support their family. But as far as the Governor is concerned they are employed and that cuts down their overall unemployment rate and that is the only thing the Governor cares about and that is the number. She doesn't care if you can barely stay alive you're no longer unemployed and that is all that matters.
2. How about taking a different poll of people over the age of 55, Veteran and non-veteran who are getting employment during the last quarter of 2014 that provides them a respectable, good earning job. Being a manager of a big business, or an IT person who has spent 20 years in the field who has now been reduced to being a greeter at Wal-Mart really isn't that rewarding is it. But hey it does cut down that unemployment rate, doesn't it.

Back to the OPE, When you go to the website you can find a representative in your area to assist you. So I contacted the local area representative, I met with him and he gave me 1 referral to a county job and that was the last I heard from him and I never heard from the county job.

Meanwhile it is now September of 2014, I am 3 months behind on rent, my car and they are going to cut off my electricity and cell phone. If it wasn't for a wonderful Land lord, churches and charities we would have ended up in the streets and still I have not heard a thing from any state provided job assistance.

I again reached out to the Governor's office and I was told to apply to state jobs on SC.GOV. I submitted 3 applications to the city of Columbia What I got in return was 3 very nice post cards saying "Thank you for you applications" and that is all I have heard from the city the state and the county. I have not heard a thing since then.

So now it is Nov 2014 barley hanging by a thread I finally get a job and were did I get this job I got it off of Craigslist (Imagine that) and I still have not heard a thing from and state affiliated assistance or web site.

The job lasted from Nov 2014 until Jan 17 2015 and I got laid off again, why? Because they couldn't afford my wages and they were paying me \$2000.00 less than what it took to support my family. It did however get me caught up on my bills and allow me to make plans for the future. The lay off once again didn't help, plans obliterated.

So since Jan 2015 until this current date of 2-2015 I have started to look for another job. Facing again, no rent money, no unemployment benefits, no money for bills etc.

Thought I would give SC works another chance and I was shocked at what I came across. It has been several months since I had to look at that site and when I went to job search in my field I came across this.

05/05/2014	<u>Des-top Support Engineer</u>	Expinfo. Inc.	Columbia. SC	N/A	CC
Mandatory Requirements • WIN 7 SETUP AND INSTALLATION • PC HARDWARE • M OFFICE SETUP					
03/26/2014	<u>Des-top Support Engineer</u>	Expinfo. Inc.	Columbia. SC	N/A	CC
Mandatory Requirements • Administrative--Intermediate PC Skills • IT Administration--Operating Systems/API--Windows					
11/06/2014	<u>Server & Des-top Support Engineer</u>	Expinfo. Inc.	Columbia. SC	<u>8 of 26</u> <u>(30.8%)</u>	CC

The same jobs I submitted back in March of 2014 with a statement that I have already submitted an application 7 months ago and I still have not heard from them.

Long story short, I have submitted over 60 application to SC works, 3 to the city, 1 to the county and 2 to the state and I have not heard a thing from any of them. Here is the funny thing I called the State 3 days ago and told them of this and do you care to guess what they said. They said that the Governor has a program for veterans out there called Operation Palmetto Employment; all I could do is laugh.

Oh and here is a funny thing about the OPE when you click on their job search it hyperlinks right back to SC WORKS, Yeah what a great program!!!!

I saw a Facebook page about the Governor and how she has helped the employment of this state. A lot of people told her she was doing a great job funny thing was they were either retired or already had a job. What was that saying in the movie American President "*People don't drink the sand because they're thirsty. They drink the sand because they don't know the difference.*"

Wake up people when a US Army veteran, 20 years in the IT industry, certified and with a degree can't get a job and the State does nothing to help... stop drinking the sand it isn't good for you.

My name is Anthony Cabral, I served in the US Army to protect this country ***and I am a Vietnam Veteran***, I have paid my dues and got my education and I have to sit back and ask why can I not get employment, why can't I get assistance from our government? So many answers come to mind but one sticks out above all the rest.

Could it be because I am 60 years old and I am no longer, in the eyes of the state and business's I no longer serve a purpose to better our community, better our businesses or better the economy.

Am I now to be put out to pasture and serve no purpose? My family must now suffer because of my age and the views of those that can help.

Why is it that people of age are considered to no longer be a value? I am 60 years old and I run circles around those half my age. I have 3 kids a daughter at 12, a son at 8 and a baby girl at 19 months. I too want to have a great Christmas for my children, I want them to go on trips and parties and provide them with anything they want just like the Governor does with her family.

But there is one other thing I want and that is something she claims she won't take but I am the one not getting it and that is to REST. I want to be able to sleep at night without tears from being afraid for my family's future. I want to sleep knowing that tomorrow will be a good day for my family. I want my kids to have a fighting chance to grow up and become whatever they wish to be. I want to be given a little more respect for what I have done for this country and I want a job.

The Governor said she will not rest until those that want a job have a job. She said she wants to get the unemployment rate for Veterans down to a 0. Well I am a Veteran and I am unemployed and facing living in the street, losing my family as I would never have them live in the street and adding one more to the population of homeless people in this fine State that the Governor wants to help so badly.

So my question to you Governor Haley is why are you resting and enjoying life when you have not done a thing for the people you so proudly protect? You know what you can create a job for me and put me in charge of getting your SC works web site up to date, getting OPE to actually be useful and getting the unemployed people of this state a fighting chance.

Dare to take a chance? Or is it easier to say you're doing something and keep coming up with lame programs that don't help at all.

I have paid my dues and I have paid into the system I should be able to take from the state (food stamp, wic etc) and not feel guilty for doing so. But I am 60 years young, I still have plenty of life in me and I can work and I know there are families out there that are worse off than I am and for every penny I take from Charities, state provided programs like wic and food stamps because I cannot get a job in this state is denying others from getting the assistance and that is enough to make anyone fell guilty.

Thank you for your time, you may contact me (skeptical or if whoever opens this and reads it actually gives it to you to read) if you feel the need. My number is 970-270-9671.

Anthony Cabral

