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To:
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Statement from Gov. Nikki Haley on U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint's seat

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley today released the following statement regarding U.S. Senator Jim DeMint's retirement and the process of filling the vacancy it creates:

"Appointing a new member of the U.S. Senate is a solemn duty, and I take this responsibility with utmost seriousness. I will make this decision in a manner that is thoughtful and dignified, but also quickly.

"I want to make two things clear from the outset. Number one, I will not take the appointment myself. Number two, I will appoint a person who has the same philosophy of government that Jim DeMint and I share.

"With all the challenges we face as a state and nation, it is essential that the next senator from South Carolina be dedicated to the principles that our state most values."

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