



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

June 10, 2016

The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly,

Today, I am vetoing and returning without my authority R302, H.4327, a bill relating to the licensure of hospice programs in South Carolina. **I am vetoing this bill because it contains no actual changes to hospice licensure in South Carolina but does create a government-sponsored lobbying effort for two competing hospice associations.**

Most of this bill serves to memorialize current practices at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control relating to hospice licensure. If this veto is sustained, all of these practices will remain in regulation and nothing related to licensing hospices will change. **The remainder of the bill unfortunately adds a task force designed to negotiate a certificate of need style system of protecting regional hospice territories.**

It is concerning to me that the task force's membership is limited to eight representatives from two different and competing hospice trade associations, mediated by two DHEC employees. Lobbying organizations are well paid by their members to influence lawmakers and regulators alike. **We should not pass bills that write their influence into law.** I ask you sustain this veto and to preserve the integrity and public trust in our legislative process.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nikki" and last name "Haley" clearly visible.

Nikki R. Haley