

March 17, 2017

The Honorable John Courson
South Carolina State Senate
L. Marion Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Senator Courson:

Having received a certified copy of the State Grand Jury's indictment, you are hereby suspended from the South Carolina Senate, in accordance with the provisions of the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act, effective immediately.

The suspension will remain in effect until these indictments are resolved.

Chapter 13 of Title 8 states in pertinent part:

"A member of the General Assembly who is indicted in a state court or a federal court for a crime that is a felony, a crime that involves moral turpitude, a crime that has a sentence of two or more years, or a crime that violates election laws must be suspended immediately without pay by the presiding officer of the House or Senate, as appropriate. The suspension remains in effect until the public official is acquitted, convicted, pleads guilty, or pleads nolo contendere. In the case of a conviction, the office must be declared vacant. In the event of an acquittal or dismissal of charges against the public official, he is entitled to reinstatement and back pay."

I regret these unfortunate events and pray that these matters are resolved in a timely matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Bryant

cc: Mr. Jeffrey S. Gossett
Clerk of the Senate