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To:
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Subject: S.C. Senate confirms five of Gov. Haley's Cabinet appointees

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Gov. Haley thanks Senate for swift action

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley today praised South Carolina Senate confirmation of five more Cabinet appointments: William R. Byars, Jr., as Director of the Department of Corrections; Lillian B. Koller as Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS); Kevin A. Shwedo, Colonel, United States Army (Retired), as Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); Robert J. St. Onge, Jr., Major General, United States Army (Retired), as Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT); and Bob Toomey as Director of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS).

Gov. Haley issued the following statements regarding the confirmations:

Corrections: “I want to thank State Sen. Mike Fair and the entire Senate, for confirming Judge Byars, a true public servant who is committed to improving lives in our state. As we have said all along, the work Judge Byars did at DJJ was nothing short of a miracle. We’re pleased to have him at Corrections where he’ll employ that same innovative leadership and focus on reducing recidivism rates in South Carolina.”

DOT, DMV: “I want to thank State Sen. Larry Grooms and the entire Senate for confirming Robert St. Onge and Kevin Shwedo. They have both served our country, we’re grateful for their service, and we’re ready for them to bring efficient and effective leadership that’s free from politics to DOT and DMV.”

DSS: “I want to thank the Senate, and especially State Sen. Thomas Alexander, for confirming Lillian Koller. Lillian and her team have already made progress at the agency, eliminating a projected \$28 million deficit and doing what I have asked of all of my Cabinet appointees: showing meaningful results for the people quickly. Lillian has been recognized time after time for her achievements in getting results for families and children and in making government more transparent and accountable. We couldn’t be happier that she can get to work.”

DAODAS: “I want to thank the Senate, and in particular State Sen. Harvey Peeler, for confirming Bob Toomey. Bob realizes that improving the quality of critical services – including prevention and treatment of substance abuse and addiction – will go a long way toward keeping people out of our hospitals and prisons, improving the quality of life in our state and saving tax dollars.”

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