

12/15/2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I have been a staunch supporter of your policies and actions while in the governor's office and very much appreciate the attention you pay to important issues in our state. Today, I am writing on behalf of my daughter, Amy L. Diello, who desperately needs your help. I sincerely hope you will take the time to read this letter and intercede for Amy if it is at all possible.

Amy is a single parent with a 13 year old daughter who is in the honors program at Summit Middle School here in Columbia. Amy has always offered her help to others in need. About 7 years ago, she sold her home and left a promising sales career in Columbia to assist a family in New York who had taken 6 adoptive children into their home. She returned to Columbia about 4 years ago.

Amy is now 44 years old. She applied for admission to USC for a BS degree in Nursing in September 2015 and was advised her acceptance could not be confirmed until mid December. That confirmation arrived on December 11. Her admission was declined. She has since learned that **her rejection was primarily due to a 2.8 GPA she received at Cayuga Community College in New York 25 years ago**. I contacted the admissions office this week and was advised that **All previous education history and GPA scores**, are used to determine admission to the nursing program and the 2.8 GPA 25 years past, was a significant factor in this decision.

Following Amy's brief education in New York 25 years ago, she completed the culinary arts program at **Johnson & Wales College, finishing with a 4.0 GPA**. Due to a serious spinal injury, Amy was unable to work in the restaurant industry. While being employed full time and about 2 years ago, she graduated at the top level in her class, receiving certification as **Medical Assistant from Centura College with a 4.0 GPA**. She has since been employed by Palmetto Pediatrics in Columbia where she is highly respected for her work. During the next 1 ½ years while continuing her full time employment, Amy completed all undergraduate studies required for entry in USC's Nursing program through studies at **South University receiving a 3.48 GPA**.

Governor Haley, some felons completing jail sentences receive college education. Some receive paroles before finishing their sentence. Some even receive Gubernatorial Pardons for their convictions. I support most of these efforts, **but other honest, hard working, intelligent people struggling to get ahead, are impeded due to a 25 year old GPA score, (still passing), received by a 19 year old while their current high GPA scores seem to have no relevance?** Surely, most would agree this policy runs counterproductive to the state's Dept of Education goals. Our educational institutions accept many students taking exception to a variety of extenuating circumstances. The next period at USC begins after January 1, 2016. Amy has worked hard to become an RN with BS Degree and is pleading that you intercede on her behalf to overturn this decision if at all possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Respectfully,


William Diello
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