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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov  
Date: 1/13/2018 8:13:47 AM  
Subject: Declared Emergency Bill

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Lt. Governor Bryant. First of all thank you for your dedicated service to our Lord and to the great state of SC.

I have been greatly concerned over the past few years about the amount of riots and vandalism that stemmed from protests. I understand as American's we have the rights of peaceful protests and to that I agree should be a right. However, many peaceful protests are infiltrated with those who wish to cause great damage and harm to others. We saw this in Charlottesville, St. Louis, and even Charlotte NC. When damage to police and emergency vehicles, attempted assaults against our police officers, and intentional damage and looting take place then that is where the line should be drawn. I have seen on TV where there were intentional looters smashing windows of businesses and stealing Televisions, tennis shoes and all sorts of other non-life sustaining items, all because the looters could get away with it. The business owners suffer great loss and too often the business has to shut down. That is not right.

I am asking the governing body of this State to consider a bill that would hopefully be followed by every other state in this nation.

If, during anytime a local mayor or county authority, state governor, or federal government declares an emergency or during times of rightful protests, if any person is caught causing damage or looting non-life sustaining items, then that person must serve a mandatory prison sentence that fits the crime.

If any person makes any attempt to intentionally assault our police, guardsmen, or other emergency personnel then the person will face a mandatory prison sentence.

If SC will put some "teeth" into such a law then we could see such crimes greatly diminished. It is not right that the law abiding citizens and businesses must suffer without any recourse and without the perpetrators going totally unpunished.

If these who turn to looting or intentional damaging other properties are severely punished then it would establish a nationwide awareness that South Carolina is not the state to carry out their crimes.

I believe businesses would also be more likely to open with the peace of mind that there is some anticipated protections in case of emergencies and protests.

I have encouraged my local representative to consider such a bill, but have had no response. I do not know how to get any attention to this request.

With greatest respect and regards,  
Ron Potts  
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