

From: Veldran, Katherine
To: Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
Pitts, Ted <TedPitts@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 3/4/2013 8:59:43 AM
Subject: FW: Proposed Amendment to S 291 (First Steps)

From Senator Fair.

From: Mikefair [mailto:mikefair@charter.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2013 5:58 AM
To: Veldran, Katherine
Cc: tedpitts@scgov.gov
Subject: Re: Proposed Amendment to S 291 (First Steps)

Thank you Katherine. Please Forward to Christian

Christian,

As you know, you talked to Joe, there are others that are very much in the mix on desirable outcomes on the reauthorization of First Steps.

This is the Governor's Agency. She should have the last word. I think The Governor is being used by people who do not have a conservative view towards the entire issue regarding early childcare. They apparently have your ear.

I am not trying to be obstinate. The Governor may remove me from First Steps service at any time simply by asking me to resign.

The bill as introduced was written by a number of stakeholders with reform in mind. I believe the Governor's office needs to decide if you want universal 4k or not. It is clear to me now that there is a plan is to unravel First Steps. We are trying to maintain shared service delivery and that will always be a thorn in the side of the liberals. Sorry you can't see that. You also need to have confidence in your advisors that you have placed in positions of authority.

The reviews you are requesting could be provided to the Governor Monthly as far as that is concerned. All of the people on the state board are the Governors people.

I was prepared to accommodate your wishes but I know, I think, who is directing the last minute revision. I am not willing to do their bidding. Control is paramount in some minds for the sake of control not for the well being of 'needy' children. That point would be argued but arrogance has gotten in the way of good judgement.

So, the suggested changes go too far. Please try again. I would encourage you to stay within the shadows of the Statehouse for input. You have excellent resources with agendas that are on top of the table. Please use those resources.

My understanding is the Subcommittee is meeting Wed am so we have a few days to see if we can agree.

I am not going to torch a consensus agreement for the sake of a few elitist. I am not referring to a single individual in your office. I think I have the Governor's back covered on this matter while discharging the intent of the agency.

I speak for myself.

Mike

Sent from my iPad

From: Soura, Christian
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 2:58 PM
To: Veldran, Katherine
Cc: Pitts, Ted

Katherine,

Do you mind passing this along to Sen. Fair for his consideration? I tracked changes and put a lot of comments in the margin in order to explain what I tweaked and why.

I've talked to Joe Waters at ICS a number of times, going back into last year, so the version of this bill that was introduced already reflected a number of comments and suggestions from our office. Most of the rest of what's in here includes items that I discussed with Joe, but never had a chance to get him language on (the Executive Order issue being a notable example). Some of the others are more recent, but I gave him a call after we talked to Sen. Fair and gave him an overview of what we had in mind. So I'll share the amendment with Joe shortly, as well.

In broad strokes, the proposed amendment does the following:

- Makes a number of technical and/or clarifying revisions
- Revises references to Executive Orders or their successors, to ensure that the links are preserved if those orders are subsequently reissued
- Maintains reviews on the current 3-year schedule (vs. 5 years in the unamended bill)
- Directs the First Steps Board to make a recommendation on assessment(s) by 12/1/14 (vs. 7/1/15 in the unamended bill)
- Directs the Treasurer to withhold funds if a program evaluation report is more than 3 months late
- Directs the LAC to issue an update to its imminent 2013 report by 12/1/14
- Reauthorizes First Steps until 7/1/15

There are a few other ins and outs, but I think those are the major items. Obviously, I'm glad to meet with Sen. Fair and others to discuss this next week if he's interested. Thanks.

CLS

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