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Subject: Release from Lt. Governor Kevin Bryant

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May 1, 2018

## Press Release

Columbia, SC – Lieutenant Governor Kevin Bryant, Senator Tom Davis and Representative Jason Elliott will discuss on May 2, at 10am. SC Senate bill S. 1189, sponsored by Senator Shane Martin, Tom Davis and others, and its companion in the SC House, H. 5319, sponsored by Representative Jason Elliott and others. Both are Ethics Reform Proposals to end the racketeering that has infested the Statehouse for decades.

"The simple fact is that there has been a very organized effort for at least two decades to use the powers of elected office for personal gain," said Lt. Governor Bryant. "Everyone knows what happened, but the special prosecutor is having extreme difficulty prosecuting the bad actors. That's because the law fails to explicitly outlaw these organized and intentional efforts. S. 1189 and H. 5319 will eliminate the open range now enjoyed by lobbyists, consultants and those elected officials who view Columbia as their personal ATM."

Senator Davis said that, "In recent years at the State House, there has been an alarming rise in the number of revolving-door lobbyists -- a phrase I use to refer to politicians and public officials who cash in on their government experience in order to become influence peddlers in Columbia. Simply put, these revolving-door lobbyists have privileged access to former employers that others simply do not have, and they are hired by those seeking governmental favor simply because of their ability to get a foot in the door. This bill would lock that revolving door, not just for one year as now proscribed, but forever. "

"Trust in state government is at an all-time low due to a few elected officials behaving badly. That needs to stop," said Representative Elliott. "The South Carolina Anti-Racketeering Act will strengthen our state's weak ethics laws and restore trust in government. Special interest groups led by their armies of lobbyists need to play by the same rules as regular citizens, or face the consequences."

Who: Lt. Governor Kevin Bryant, Senator Tom Davis and Representative Jason Elliott

What: S. 1189 and H. 5319, Anti-Racketeering Ethics Reform Proposals

When: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 starting at 10:00 A.M.

Where: Outside The Office of the Lieutenant Governor