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January 28, 2016



The State Capitol Report

Submitted by
Rep. Patricia "Pat" Henegan
SC House District #54

I returned to Columbia for the start of a new legislative session on January 12. Since 2016 is the second year of the 121st Session, the Legislature can finish where we left off last year rather than start from scratch in the process of getting bills passed.

I expect many important issues to be addressed this year: improving public education in rural, poor communities, finding ways to help people who suffered losses during the October floods, seeking a permanent source of funding for repairing roads and bridges, adding protections for victims of domestic violence and strengthening ethics requirements for public officials. I will be doing all I can to make sure that the needs of vulnerable populations and rural, poor counties are not overlooked in the debate.

During our first week, the House approved a bill that would set new requirements for riders of mopeds. While some provisions contained important safety requirements, I voted against this bill, as I believe it would present overwhelming obstacles for drivers of mopeds, often the only means of transportation for many residents in my district. In contrast to more populated areas, we don't have easy access to Uber or taxis.

The bill (**H 3440**), which is pending in the Senate, would set new requirements for registering and licensing mopeds with the state Department of Motor Vehicles, require moped operators to maintain insurance coverage, require moped operators and passengers to wear reflective vests and make it illegal to operate a moped at a speed greater than 35 miles per hour or drive on public roads with a speed limit greater than 55 miles per hour. The requirement for carrying insurance puts a greater burden on people who can't afford it.

Education reform is high on the agenda this year, as the Supreme Court has ordered the state to come up with a plan to improve education in the state's most impoverished districts. One idea being discussed would provide free college tuition for teachers willing to work eight years in districts with high turnover rates. Other ideas include higher salaries for new teachers, improving technology, and building or renovating school buildings in poor school districts.

I am glad that the Legislature is finally getting serious about addressing education reform, but sadly, it took a 2014 Supreme Court ruling to force its hand. The original lawsuit on school equity was filed more than 22 years ago. It is a shame that there is not a level playing field when it comes to the delivery of education resources: our poor, rural communities receive less funding and resources, but students are expected to perform the same as students from wealthier districts.

One of the first issues I faced last week dealt with domestic violence. My suitemate, Rep. Mary Tinkler, and I





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learned that the State Health Plan does not cover "services or supplies to treat a condition or injury resulting from an act of domestic violence." We immediately called Governor Haley's office to inquire about this omission. The Governor's office informed us she would look into the matter immediately.

It is imperative that this exclusion be fixed, particularly since the Governor and Legislature are finally focusing on the needs of victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Reform Act was enacted last year, and Gov. Haley recently announced plans to add new prosecutors and judges to cut the waiting time of trials in criminal in criminal domestic violence cases and to require that certain state agencies screen clients for potential domestic violence and to require Cabinet agencies to adopt policies to help victims of domestic violence.

October's floods left thousands of state residents with homes and businesses that were damaged and destroyed. Nearly 100,000 residents sought federal disaster aid, and, while this aid helped, it was not sufficient. So many families are hurting and need additional funds to recover. Bills are being filed to allocate surplus funds to help people impacted by the storm. Another measure would create the S.C. Farm Aid Fund to assist farmers who have suffered at least 40 percent loss of crops as the result of a natural disaster. The flooding, too, is forcing our state to pay more attention to the infrastructure needs of our state. Funding to maintain the state's roads and bridges will be a top issue this year.

During the flooding, I was touched and inspired by the generous donations of businesses and people who just wanted to help. We were able to secure the delivery of four truckloads of canned goods and cleaning supplies to families in Johnsonville, Kingstree and Georgetown.

Just last week, there was flooding in the Wallace area. Special thanks to all those who supported the families affected, including the American Red Cross, the NAACP, the EEOC, the Wallace Fire Department, Robert Bean, the DOT Marlboro County Resident Maintenance Engineer, and his staff.

Thank you for the trust that you have placed in me. I can be reached in Columbia on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 803-212-6896. My Columbia address is Rep. Pat Henegan, 333A Blatt, P.O. Box 11867, Columbia, SC, 29211 or pathenegan@schouse.gov. On Mondays and Fridays, you can reach me at 843-479-7838. You may also call 843-479-5622 to set up an appointment to meet me on Mondays or Fridays at my Bennettsville office at the Office of Veterans Affairs in the D.D. McColl House, 300 West Main Street. The address of my local office is P.O. Box 41, Bennettsville, SC 29512.



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Haley helps celebrate Nutramax expansion

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Increased jobs and investment were at the top of Gov. Nikki Haley's mind as she visited Lancaster Monday to help veterinary health supplement manufacturer Nutramax Laboratories officially announce plans for its new facility.

The company's purchase of the 185,000-square-foot facilities at 1759 Flat Creek Road will be the company's third facility in Lancaster County, a \$15 million investment that will help the company create 125 new jobs.

Monday's event drew nearly 100 people to the company's Veterinary Science headquarters at 946 Quality Drive in the Lancaster Business Park, including state and local dignitaries, community leaders and Nutramax employees.

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Nutramax

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Taking the stage along with Haley, Lancaster County Council Chairman Bob Bundy and Lancaster Mayor Pro Tem John Howard, were the family-owned company's founders and leaders Bob, Todd and Troy Henderson.

Haley said the expansion demonstrated the company's love of community, the work ethic of the state's workers and the state's local partnerships. As a result of all those factors, she said, Nutramax is thriving.

"I want to thank the chair, and the mayor, and I want to thank Dr. Henderson, Dr. Henderson and Dr. Henderson — I just thought it would be cool to say that," Haley said to laughter.

"I want to thank you all because you did take a

chance on us," she said.

Haley said what sets Nutramax apart is its focus on the concept of family. Not only is the company family-owned, she said, but its business practices strive to create a sense of family among its employees and customers.

She said Nutramax represented the kind of company South Carolina wants to recruit, those that would give back to the community and state.

The day's celebration, she said, was not only one for Nutramax, but for South Carolina and Lancaster County as well.

"I want to thank the community of Lancaster. Y'all make this easy. You really do," Haley said. "Because when you take them in, you take them in with every ounce of your being. And they feel it."

"I never worry about jobs coming to Lancaster County because I know at the end of the day, there's going to be a faith community, there's going to be a community spirit and there's going to be arms around them and not let them fall."

Increased investment

Now in its sixth year in Lancaster, Nutramax Veterinary Sciences researches, develops and distributes nutritional supplements for animals such as Cosequin for joint health.

The company's Maryland operation produces nutritional supplements for humans.

Nutramax officials said the new facility, expected to open in late summer or early fall, will initially house the company's warehousing operation, though future plans call for some corporate offices and more manufacturing lines.

Last November, Lancaster County Council approved an expansion of the company's original fee-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement (FILOT) by 10 years to 2050.

The original FILOT, approved in 2010, was to have lasted for 30 years and called for an \$8.5 million investment and creation of 200 jobs by June 2015.

To date, the company has invested more than \$29 million and hired 285 people.

The new FILOT calls for an additional \$15 million investment and 125 additional employees by Dec. 31, 2019.

Bob Henderson, who along with Todd Henderson started the company in Maryland in 1992, said the company's success has been a result of its unabashed Christian-based philosophy, commitment to quality and

the dedication of its employees.

Among the best decisions the company ever made, he said, was to

move to South Carolina. He said the company was proof that small business and free enterprise could make it in the state.

"I'm just so glad we made that decision and the state and the county helped us," Henderson said. "Our job is not to take money from the taxpayers, it's to give back."

"That's what we want to do, and try to do, give back to the community that helped us get here and expand our business," he said. "We could not have expanded this business without them."

Bundy and Howard also spoke, each congratulating the company on its success.

"I can tell you, this company has exceeded every expectation," Howard said.

"Now they will continue to prosper with guidance and divine intervention, and I can assure you there will always be confirmation and support from the city and the county."

Among the state officials attending Mondays event were: S.C. Sen. Greg Gregory, S.C. Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell, S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson, S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce Director Cheryl Stanton, and Ted Campbell of the S.C. Department of Commerce.

Local officials included County Councilmen Larry Honeycutt, Steve Harper and Jack Estridge; Lancaster City Councilwomen Jackie Harris and Tamara Green Garriss; and Lancaster County School District Superintendent Dr. Gene Moore and school board vice-chairwoman Maggie Gamble.

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Gov. Nikki Haley talks with reporters after the presentation at Nutramax Laboratories on Tuesday.

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By Rodney Welch

With K-12 a Funding Priority USC Makes Its Pitch

When advocates for the University of South Carolina went to the S.C. State House this year for Carolina Day — the school's annual public relations pitch to state legislators — they did so knowing at least one big gun was not on their side.

In late January, USC announced a \$200 million building project which, according to *The State*, would relocate the medical school "from its site next to the Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center to 14 acres that USC owns near Palmetto Health Richland hospital."

Under USC's plan, about \$50 million to get the project underway would come from state coffers — and Gov. Nikki Haley quickly made it clear she thought it was a waste of money.

The real issue, she said in her Jan. 20 State of the State address, was repairing the crumbling K-12 schools in the state's poorer districts, and providing incentives for teachers to stay — not bonding out "hundreds of millions of dollars to fill a wish list for our

of Alabama, for example, now mainly serves students from beyond its borders.

"We don't want to be that kind of state university," he says, "but that's where public colleges in the state would need to turn if there's no hope of increased funding."

Also, he says, "the vast majority of buildings that you see going up, like the alumni center, the athletic renovations, they do not come from state or tuition-supported money."

On the upside, Pastides says that an improved state economy has meant a promising response from lawmakers on the new med school campus.

"In other years, when the revenue was not as robust, it was more like, 'Gee, I'd like to help you, but — '. This year it's more like 'We'd really like to help you, we don't know yet where all this is going, but your ideas are definitely on the table.'"

"What our advocates reported is that most legislators seem to understand that for South Carolina to be competitive, to be

"Let's not make it K-12 versus college education." — Harris Pastides, USC President

already bloated higher education system."

The governor added that higher education already has more than enough money due to increasing tuition hikes, and that the "brand new facilities and massive new construction projects" at Clemson and USC indicate that neither are hurting.

For USC President Harris Pastides, it's not an either/or question.

"I would say 'Let's not make it K-12 versus college education,'" he tells *Free Times*.

"Workforce development requires many, many more baccalaureate graduates. We know that from the Boeings and the other employers in the state, so let's not pit the two segments of education against each other."

Pastides says he's sympathetic to many issues the state faces, and that he looks forward to working with the governor to come up with a solution.

"But if there's no pot at the end of the rainbow, to be honest, if the expectations come with no money whatsoever, then the colleges will have to continue to look for how they can raise those funds — which unfortunately means turning away from the state, and we certainly don't want to do that."

Pastides says the revenue brought in by a tuition hike is "relatively modest," and that the real way to make more money is to bring in more out-of-state students. The University

healthier, to be the growing, prosperous state that we want is that it's not a matter of funding K-12 or higher education, but it's funding both," says USC Alumni Association Director Jack Claypoole.

Sen. John Courson, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, says it's impossible to read the mood of the Legislature before the House Ways and Means Committee drafts the appropriations bill, which is where the budget process starts.

However, he says funding the medical school would probably have to be in a bond bill, because the amount is more than the budget alone could handle.

Courson says it could be difficult to weigh the needs of both K-12 and higher education, mainly because one is mandatory and one isn't.

But the future of the state, he adds, could weigh heavily on higher education. Courson cites the 2015 report "Competing Through Knowledge," sponsored by the S.C. Business Leaders Higher Education Council, which projected that the state would have a shortage of more than 114,000 workers with two- and four-year degrees through 2030.

"It's an astronomical figure," he says. "It's an economic issue for the state. It's a quality of life issue. It's a competitive issue." **ft**



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148 Haley, author will speak at Citadel

Two Greater Issues Series presentations will be held in coming weeks at The Citadel. The first will feature two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, author David McCullough. The presenter for the second address will be Governor Nikki Haley. Both speeches will be attended by the South Carolina Corps of Cadets and are also open to the public with limited seating available. This is the 62nd year the Greater Issues Series will present nationally and globally-known thought-leaders.

Internationally acclaimed author and speaker, David G. McCullough, will deliver a Greater Issues Address to the South Carolina Corps of Cadets at 2:15 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 19, at McAlister Field House.

His 11 books include: *The Path Between the Seas*; *Mornings on Horseback*; *Truman*; *John Adams*; *1776*; and most recently, *The Wright Brothers*. Among the 15 historical documentaries McCullough has presented or narrated are: *The Civil War* (Ken Burns); *Huey Long*; *D-Day Remembered*; *The Statue of Liberty*; and *American Experience*. His numerous awards include two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, the National Book Foundation's lifetime Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

McCullough has earned 52 honorary degrees and has been widely praised as one of America's greatest historians. A citation from Yale, his alma mater, stated that he "paints

with words, giving us pictures of the American people that live, breathe, and above all, confront the fundamental issues of courage, achievement, and moral character" and that, collectively, have "led a renaissance of interest in American History."

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley will provide the keynote address for the ninth annual Principled Leadership Symposium at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, in McAlister Field House. The symposium is a nationally-lauded event held in conjunction with The Citadel's Corps Day Weekend each year, during which the South Carolina Corps of Cadets and students delegates from other colleges focus on leadership and ethics.

Nikki Randhawa Haley was re-elected as the 116th Governor of South Carolina in 2014. Born in Bamberg, S.C., the daughter of Indian immigrants, Governor Haley's first job was keeping the books for her family's clothing store – at the age of 13. She went on to graduate from Clemson University with a degree in accounting and was eventually elected to the S.C. House of Representatives in 2004 to represent the 87th District, beating the longest-serving state legislator in a Republican primary.

During her tenure as Governor, Haley has brought together leaders of both political parties, educators and the business community to achieve major education reforms, as well as pension, Medicaid and illegal immigration reforms. Under her leadership, the state's jobless rate has hit record lows, the state has announced more

than 70,000 new jobs, and the state has made the largest infrastructure investment in a generation without raising taxes.

Seating for the public at the addresses will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no fee to attend.

Per the colleges safety regulations, no boxes, alcohol, weapons, firecrackers, noise makers, umbrellas, bever-

McCullough books

"The Path Between the Seas"
"Mornings on Horseback"
"Truman"
"John Adams"
"1776"
"The Wright Brothers"
"The Johnstown Flood"
"The Greater Journey"
"The Great Bridge"
"The Course of Human Events"
"What Ifs of American History"

age containers of any sort, backpacks, large handbags, coolers, thermoses or similar items will be allowed in the field house. Food and drink are prohibited. Cameras and video cameras are permitted; however, guests will not be permitted on the floor of the field house during the presentations.

The Greater Issues Series was founded in 1954 to engage Citadel cadets' interest and knowledge in important topics of the day. Since it was established by the Mills B. Lane Memorial Foundation, the series has brought presidents, heads of state, scholars, diplomats, journalists and distinguished business and military leaders to The Citadel, its cadets, students, faculty and staff, and the Charleston community.



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Tire plant opens in Spartanburg

SPARTANBURG — An Italian-based company has opened its tire plant in Spartanburg County.

The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported that Trelleborg Wheel Systems unveiled its \$50 million plant Wednesday.

The company announced in 2014 that it would open a plant to make tires for the agriculture and forestry industries.

Trelleborg has 52 employees at the Spartanburg plant. It expects to add nearly 100 more workers by 2018. Gov. Nikki Haley says Trelleborg is the fifth international tire company in South Carolina. The state already has plants operated by Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental and Giti.



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148 Bills to fix rural schools introduced in SC House

BY JAMIE SELF

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COLUMBIA — A bill aimed at committing state money to helping impoverished school districts replace or repair aging facilities was among eight proposals introduced Thursday in the S.C. House.

Another bill would allow the state to take control of a school district that is failing financially. Under current law, the state has that power only if a district is failing academically.

The facilities proposal follows calls from the governor and state schools chief this month for the state to do more to improve K-12 public school buildings, some crumbling from years of neglect.

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley has proposed borrowing up to \$200 million a year for school facilities. That would create a new source of money for school districts. Now responsible for building and maintaining their own schools, districts in impoverished, rural areas often struggle to raise enough money just to replace roofs, much less renovate schools.

The proposal aimed at improving school facilities, sponsored by House Education Committee Chairwoman Rita Allison, R-Spartanburg, would create an authority that could borrow money on the state's behalf to spend on school facilities.

The bill does not specify how the state would pay for the program, how much it would spend or how the money would be

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distributed to school districts. Those details will be worked out this session, Allison said, adding she has asked for the money to be committed annually.

"This would not be a one-year, two-year situation," she said.

The bill lays the foundation for allowing school districts that cannot afford to repay loans to receive direct aid from the state.

Districts in better financial shape could borrow money for building work, Allison said. To qualify for state assistance, all districts would need to undergo an efficiency study identifying ways they can save money. They also will have to report their building maintenance plans.

The proposal also calls for school districts to get more state money if they consolidate and are able to save money on operations costs.

Thursday's introduction of legislation comes after a House education task force spent a year coming up with proposals to improve the state's K-12 public schools, especially those in impoverished, rural areas.

Not all of the eight bills introduced Thursday were available for review.

According to a summary of the proposals, some of the legislation would put into law S.C. Department of Education initiatives already in motion, including providing technical assistance to districts that do not have expertise on their staffs.

The governor and legislators have been under pressure to answer a S.C. Supreme Court order to improve the state's schools.

In 2014, the court said South Carolina's schools were violating the constitution because they do not provide an adequate education. The court has asked for an update this summer on what the state is doing to improve those schools.

"The Abbeville decision brought necessary attention to the critical state of South Carolina's education delivery system," House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said in a statement after the bills were introduced.

Lucas was referring to a court ruling in a case where more than 30 impoverished rural districts — including Abbeville — sued the state in 1993 for more money.

"At the end of the day, our job is to provide school districts and teachers with the tools they need to give every child the opportunity to succeed," he said.