

1/18/2017

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Nikki Haley,

As Governor of the State of South Carolina, you are responsible for the safety of your employees. Your mission statement for the South Carolina Department of Corrections states in part: The mission of the South Carolina Department of Corrections is: Safety-we will protect the public, our employees, and our inmates. I believe you have failed in your responsibility to protect your employees within the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

18 months ago, my son chose a career as a Corrections Officer within the South Carolina Department of Corrections to provide for his wife and young children. His life and career were put in jeopardy last Thursday when he was attacked and violently assaulted by at least 4 inmates. This is the third time in the past 18 months he has been attacked and suffered some sort of injury. Thankfully, he will live to continue to take care of his wife and my Grand Girls. Unfortunately, this latest attack has resulted in injuries that will require surgery and possibly a permanent disability.

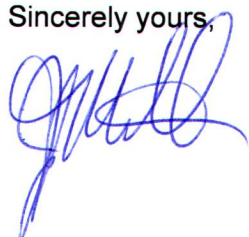
Within a day, the SCDC Director, Bryan P. Stirling contacted my son to check on how he was recovering. I am truly thankful for his concern for his staff following such an incident.

However, I must ask why was my son attacked, why was he put in this dangerous situation? What measures were in place to minimize or mitigate the risk? Was his prison staffed at the required levels on that day? I believe the answer is no. I feel the reason my son was put in the situation when he was attacked and where his life was put in danger was due to inadequate staffing at his institution. I further believe the inadequate staffing is due to your failure to provide a safe work environment and to appropriately compensate these Correction Officers commensurate with the dangers and risks that they must face on a daily basis.

As a 20 year veteran and current public servant myself, I understand my responsibility to protect the health and safety of the public and the people in my charge. Your Correction Officers also assume and understand their responsibility to protect each other and the public from these violent offenders. However, I am not sure you fully understand your obligation to do the same. Again, I feel that you have failed in your responsibility to protect your staff within the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

I look forward to your response to my concerns and further request the opportunity to meet face-to face to discuss this issue as your time permits.

Sincerely yours,



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