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**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 12/19/2014 10:15:53 AM  
**Subject:** Holidays and Texting and Driving Ban -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- November 25 to December 19, 2014

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**Holidays and Texting and Driving Ban -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- November 25 to December 19, 2014**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** : Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family! During this month of December, we have all been busy with the sights and sounds of the season. Nevertheless, I hope that you will take a few moments over the next few days to remember the true meaning for why we celebrate Christmas. Spend time with family and friends and reflect on how blessed that we are to live in the United States. Remember our troops who are abroad and who will not be able to be home with their families for the Holidays. Cherish our children for whom we strive to make a better future in our state and nation. My wife Heather and I hope and pray that the Holiday Season and the New Year bring you much joy, health, and happiness. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the South Carolina Senate.

**"Meaning of Christmas" Message from Former President Reagan** : Thirty-three years ago this week, former President Reagan addressed the nation on television and delivered his "meaning of Christmas" message. Regardless of your political leanings, I encourage you to take a moment to watch this message and to reflect on that message both this week and next. To see the video, go [here](#).

**State Government News**

**Text and Driving Ban Now Law:** The statewide ban on texting and driving for all drivers became effective on December 7. Violators will be subject to a fine. The law is uniform across our state and pre-empts any local laws that may conflict. In case you are traveling and want to see what the law is in each of the 50 states, go [here](#). South Carolina is one of 44 states with a texting ban for all drivers.

**DSS Oversight Hearings Continue** : The DSS Oversight Subcommittee that I chair held two additional hearings on November 24 and December 11. The subcommittee is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly on how best to

improve child protective services and foster care services in our state. We plan to have the report and recommendations by mid January. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

**Haley Nominates New DSS Director** : On Monday, Governor Haley named Susan Alford to serve as the new state DSS director. She starts on January 5. Her nomination must be confirmed by the State Senate. I expect close scrutiny of anyone nominated for this position in view of the work that the DSS Oversight Committee has done in the past year. To learn more about the nomination, go [here](#).

**Planning for 2015 Legislative Session** : The 2015 legislative session convenes on the second Tuesday in January. I appreciate input from constituents on the issues facing our state and area including road and bridge infrastructure; ethics reform; tax reform; spending reform; K-12 education; the costs of higher education; health care; economic development; job growth; and the underfunded liabilities in our state's health insurance program for state retirees. Your input is welcome on any issue important to you. Please email me back; contact me by phone; or speak with me in person.

### Other News of Interest

**MOX Project Update:** Last week, Congress approved \$345 Million in funding for the MOX project. The appropriation allows for continued funding through the end of the current federal fiscal year which is September 30, 2015. To learn more, go [here](#). Our county legislative delegation will continue to keep our community updated on this issue as things develop related to the MOX project and a clear path forward for the disposition of weapons grade plutonium stored at SRS and elsewhere in the United States.

**Faith Magazine article** : A recent issue of *Faith Magazine* has an article about my public service and faith which can be seen [here](#).

**Volunteer in Local Schools:** If you would like to help with educating our children, consider volunteering in our local schools. To learn more, go [here](#). Thank you to the Aiken Downtown Rotary Club for putting together this list of opportunities.

**Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers** : Recently, the SC Bar developed a handbook for parents of special needs children. An online version of the handbook is available [here](#).

**Teens and Texting** : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law went into effect on December 7. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Frequency of Email Updates** : Because the legislature is out of session, my legislative updates will not be sent as frequently as they are from January to July. My updates will resume on a weekly basis in January.



## Constituent Information

**Legislative Email Updates** : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): [bill@billhixon.com](mailto:bill@billhixon.com)
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): [bill@taylorschehouse.com](mailto:bill@taylorschehouse.com)
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): [dwells29801@gmail.com](mailto:dwells29801@gmail.com)

**Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information** : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [608-9747](tel:608-9747).

**Speaking with Groups Around the District** : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

**Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government** : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

**Facebook** : I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

**Tom Young’s Website** : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

**Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce** : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan** : South Carolina’s 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go [here](#).

**Donate Life** : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or [here](#).

**Child Passenger Safety** : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go [here](#). The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

**Request a Flag** : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com). Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

**State House Tours** : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430 or by going [here](#). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you. The State House is open on Saturdays for guided and unguided tours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**South Carolina Tourism** : To learn more about tourist attractions and tourism opportunities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

**Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization** : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, go [here](#).

**Aiken County Tourism** : To learn more about tourism options in Aiken County, go [here](#).

**Email Updates** : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

**Road Issues** : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at 641-7665 or Aiken County at 642-1532 to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com) or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young  
649-0000 (o)  
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate
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This message was sent to katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov from:

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