



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

May 28, 2014

Dear Stakeholders and Interested Parties,

I believe that South Carolinians deserve good government, and this Administration has led many efforts to promote accountability, efficiency and integrity in state government. Increased accountability and integrity begin with reform of South Carolina's outdated ethics law. Legislation is currently pending that takes steps to reform this law; however, the proposed bill's focus is on the responsibility of elected officials, not state employees who daily make important decisions that affect our State.

Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to meet with many individual state employees, and I know that these public servants work tirelessly to improve South Carolina. I also believe that they genuinely want to do the right thing. Unfortunately, there is currently no specific resource that concretely defines the "right thing" for our public employees.

To that end, on April 9, 2014, I issued Executive Order 2014-23 establishing a State Employee Code of Conduct Task Force ("Task Force"). The Task Force is charged with developing recommendations for a Code of Conduct for South Carolina's public servants to define for them the "right thing." The goal is to develop stringent and uniform standards of official conduct. As a starting point, the Task Force will consider guidance in the following areas:

- Acceptance and reporting of gifts;
- Financial disclosures and/or prohibited transactions for individuals in senior-level positions and/or those with access to sensitive information;
- Appropriate use of state resources and equipment, including information technology;
- Assurance of a safe, nondiscriminatory work environment;
- Whistleblower protections and mandatory reporting obligations;
- Post-employment reporting requirements and/or restrictions on representing non-State interests before State agencies; and
- Other conflicts of interest or conduct-related subjects.

As a stakeholder in this process, I would like to know your recommendations for specific standards in each of the above areas. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, so please include other topics that you think should be addressed in the Code of Conduct. Please submit any comments or recommendations to the Task Force at conduct@llr.sc.gov or to the Employee Code of Conduct Task Force, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 by June 11, 2014. You may also provide your comments and recommendations at a public hearing of the Task Force scheduled for June 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 252 of the Brown Building in Columbia, SC on Statehouse grounds.

It is my belief that, with your help, we will be able to set standards for official conduct that provide the public with confidence that their government is serving them responsibly and effectively. Thank you and God bless.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley", is written over the typed name.