



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

January 28, 2016

Chairman Oscar Douglas
South Carolina Board of Juvenile Parole
100 Executive Center Drive, #103
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Dear Chairman Douglas,

On behalf of the People of South Carolina, thank you for your service to our state. Serving on the Juvenile Parole Board is an extraordinary time commitment and tremendous responsibility. We are grateful for the impact you make on young people who have served their time and invested in their own rehabilitation, and our state is better for your commitment to their future.

I am writing to encourage you to carefully consider the risk posed by a juvenile offender, Zakaryia A. Abdin, who will appear before a panel of the Juvenile Parole Board on February 1, 2016.

It is my understanding that Mr. Abdin made statements to law enforcement and school officials in support of ISIS and professed a desire to travel to Syria to fight for ISIS. He also confessed to possessing the gun that landed him in jail for "jihadi" reasons. In addition, Mr. Abdin admitted to using social media to view violent extremist material online and to actively engage with other supporters in multiple states.

Perhaps most troubling, Mr. Abdin admitted to a plan that involved the killing of troops in North Carolina. As I am sure you know, Mr. Abdin has spent less than a year in state custody for his actions. The safety and security of our state and nation are too important for us to simply release any person who not only plotted terrorist acts, but took steps to carry them out.

I trust the Juvenile Parole Board will make the right decision, but with so much at stake, I wanted you to hear directly from me on this important issue. Thank you and God bless.

My very best,

A blue ink signature of Nikki R. Haley, written in a cursive style.

Nikki R. Haley

A blue ink signature of Oscar Douglas, written in a cursive style.