

March 10, 2015

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

Madam:

Have you noticed how screwed up the United States government has become? If you haven't, then you apparently do not live in the same country I'm living in. On a personal level, I consider high unemployment to be the direct result of the policies of the federal government. This will continue to be a problem until there are checks and balances for congressmen and senators. They have managed to pass the 27th Amendment to the Constitution to protect themselves. This amendment prohibits salary cuts for congressmen and senators. It has nothing to do with government or the people, benefits only one group of people: congressmen and senators and is therefore unconstitutional and unenforceable. I will be sending a letter to the Department of Justice to that effect as well. Members of congress and the senate have over time led the people to believe that they are little gods on a stick with supreme powers. THEY AREN'T gods nor do they have any supreme powers! They are only human, no smarter than anyone else and can be recalled at any time. Furthermore, I am of the opinion that members of congress and the senate work for the people (of which I am one) and therefore not the government or themselves. If they are not doing their jobs appropriately or effectively, they should be recalled. Its time for the people and the various states to take back America.

First the 27th Amendment to the Constitution must be repealed! If it is not repealed, we can still get around it by requiring all candidates for congress or the senate to sign a contract with the people stating that they are not bound by the Amendment and will be subservient to the will of the people endeavoring to faithfully execute their jobs for the benefit of the state and the people or they will not be allowed to run for office and I don't care what the federal government thinks. If they complain, you can remind them who works for who. Congressmen and senators represent individual states not the U.S. government and we can recall them all! In addition, the issue of salaries should be a part of the same contract. These people work for us but we have no say in what they get paid. This has caused me some concern for years. It has never been my intention to vote for or elect anyone who thinks of themselves before considering the people who elected them. The fact that congressmen and senators can vote themselves a raise in pay is absurd! No one else in this country can vote themselves a salary or a pay raise but since they can do it, everyone else should be able to do it as well. What's fair for the goose is fair for the gander! To avoid such conflicts in the future, I suggest that the salaries for congressmen, senators and state legislators be set in the general election using a range from minimum wage (they think other people can live on it; maybe they should try it for awhile) to \$50,000 per year. Once the issue of salaries has been established, we can work on checks and balances. This is my proposal: when the unemployment rate for the state goes up by 1%, the salaries of the congressmen and senators will be cut by 10% whether they or the federal government likes it or not! When the state unemployment rate goes up by 2%, the salaries of congressmen and senators will be cut by 20%. If state unemployment goes up by 5%, that would induce an automatic recall election for all congressmen and senators from the state. This should make congress aware of what laws and bills they enact and make them responsible for their actions. That's the way its done in the real world. When a company, corporation or business starts losing money, salaries get cut. Therefore, congressmen and senators should learn what its like to live in the real world . . . they are not gods and should not be treated as such. THEY WORK FOR THE PEOPLE! "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed their Creator with

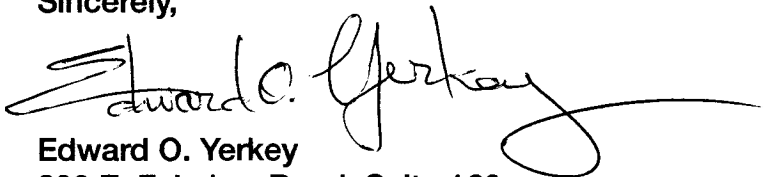
unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness: ---That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Power from the Consent of the governed; that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it & to institute new Government laying its Foundation on such Principles, & organizing it's Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety & Happiness."

I am sure you recognize where that quote came from and it can therefore not be denied as a founding principle of the United States government. Congressmen and senators derive their power from the people and are therefore employees of the people and as such are obligated to do the will of the people! As representatives of the people, they are no longer Democrats or Republicans. Hopefully these elected representatives have brains enough to think for themselves instead of being told by some party official how they should vote on the issues at hand. If not, they don't belong in Washington! Therefore, I most certainly think some alterations are necessary and I cannot see how anyone could disagree.

To this end I would like to propose that candidates for the US congress, the senate and the state legislature should be limited by state law as to how many terms they are allowed to run or serve in any office. I don't think the authors of the Constitution had in mind that being a congressman, senator or legislator was an occupation or career. Your term of office is limited . . . theirs' should be as well. My idea will at the very least eliminate frustrated lawyers and unemployed athletes from imposing themselves on the people for long periods of time. Furthermore, as employees of the people, senators and congressmen must attend every session of congress and every committee meeting to which they are assigned or provide an extraordinary excuse for not being in attendance. Going to a fund-raiser or on a campaign tour is no excuse. If the average worker didn't show up for work, he or she would be fired. As an employee of the people, congressmen, senators and legislators are no different. If they don't show up for work, they get fired! It's that simple. I am tired of these people setting their own work schedules just because they think they can. Well that's over. They will work every day, all day just like anyone else. In addition, I would like to see the various states form citizens oversight committees of twelve people selected at random from voter registration for each electoral district every six months to review the attendance and voting record of each congressman and senator to decide whether each of them meet specific guidelines for their approval. These guidelines would include an acceptable attendance record and their voting record on specific issues which would include unemployment, social security, taxes, terrorism, national security issues as well as any other issue which the committee wishes to insert. It would take at least ten of the committee members voting acceptable for any congressman or senator to remain in office. Otherwise, he or she is fired and replaced. It would be mandatory for the results of each review be sent to all newspapers, TV stations and radio stations in the state. In other words, our representatives will most definitely be deriving their just power from the consent of the governed once and for all or they won't be in that position for very long and I don't see this as a debatable issue. It's intelligent, practical, rational and realistic! Making each representative responsible for his actions and the results thereof.

I think you should give these ideas some serious thought. I'm just calling a spade a spade. All states must stick together on these issues. Think how wonderful democracy can be when applied to all people equally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward O. Yerkey", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Edward O. Yerkey  
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