

Title: **House votes to block detainee releases**  
 Author: BY VERABERGENGRUEN vbergengruen@mcclatchydc.com  
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## GUANTANAMO BAY

# House votes to block detainee releases

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN

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WASHINGTON

South Carolina Republicans in the U.S. House voted to pass a bill banning all transfers of detainees out of the Guantanamo Bay prison on Thursday, in an effort to further hamper President Barack Obama's plans to shutter the facility before he leaves office.

The House passed the bill on a 244 to 174 vote, but it's unlikely to

be approved by the Senate. Earlier this week, the White House

threatened to veto the legislation.

The bill was co-sponsored by South Carolina Reps. Joe Wilson, Jeff Duncan and Mark Sanford. The Guantanamo debate became significant to Palmetto State lawmakers after the Pentagon scouted the U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig in Hanahan, S.C., as a potential site to transfer the detainees last year. The facility lies five miles

**SEE DETAINÉES, 5A**

## DETAINÉES

FROM PAGE 1A

from North Charleston, and Gov. Nikki Haley testified before a House Homeland Security subcommittee in April about the impact it could have on the state.

While the bill is unlikely to become a law, it was meant to send a message to the Obama administration.

"On legislative matters, the president has made it clear that he doesn't know when no means no," Sanford said after the vote. "It strikes me as reasonable to try to lay before the president once again that what he might be tempted to do in a lame duck is both unlawful and will cost lives."

He said that while this bill is not new - there have been five similar laws - it was important for Congress to make its stance clear as the Obama administration enters a lame duck session. Once his actions "no longer have electoral consequence," many worry about

Obama using executive action to close the prison.

The bill, from Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Ind., prohibits all transfers until Jan. 1 next year, or until this year's annual defense policy bill is enacted, which for years has banned the transfer of Guantanamo prisoners to the United States.

"While the President is risking our national security to fulfill campaign promises, Congress will continue to put our national security first," Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., wrote in a Facebook post after the vote.

Closing the facility was one of Obama's main campaign promises in 2008, but he has yet to acknowledge that he won't be able to see it through with only a few months left in his second term.

"I am not ready to concede that it may still remain open because we're still working diligently to continue to shrink the population,"

he said last week, speaking at a summit in Laos.

The administration has worked to empty the prison as much as possible by moving detainees who have been cleared to foreign countries that accept them. Obama has shrunk the number of detainees from 241 to 61 during his time in office. In the most recent transfer, 15 prisoners were sent to the United Arab Emirates last month. It was the single largest release during the Obama administration, and increased the urgency for Republicans who want the prison to remain open.

"During the August recess, the administration released 15 dangerous detainees from Guantanamo Bay," Wilson, an original co-sponsor of the bill, said in a House floor speech ahead of Thursday's vote.

Wilson held up a printed out report to the chamber, citing a story by Reuters this week that two more freed Guantanamo detainees had

re-joined militant groups.

"The president's reckless release of detainees in an effort to close Guantanamo puts American service members and families at risk," he said.

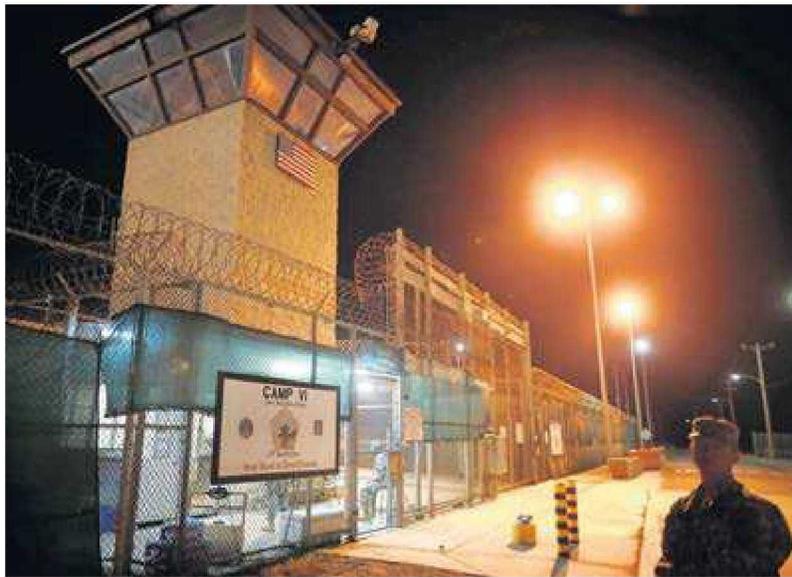
Duncan introduced his own resolution earlier this year, which would authorize a lawsuit against the Obama administration if it attempts to transfer detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison to the U.S. Earlier this week it gained its 50th cosponsor.

There are 20 detainees currently held at Guantanamo who are eligible for transfer. Except for 12 members, House Democrats voted against the bill, including Rep. Jim Clyburn, the only Democrat in the South Carolina delegation.

Democrats have argued that keeping the infamous prison open only serves as terrorist propoaganda.

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CHARLES DHARAPAK AP

The House on Thursday backed legislation that would temporarily halt the transfer of more detainees from Guantanamo Bay prison.

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Title: **SC to give \$35M in aid to farmers from 2015 floods**  
 Author: Associated Press  
 Size: 5.89 column inches  
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■ **FINANCIAL HELP**

# SC to give \$35M in aid to farmers from 2015 floods

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Nearly 1,250 farmers in South Carolina will get more than \$35 million in aid for their losses during last October's massive floods.

The Department of Agriculture said in a news release Thursday that 88 farmers will receive the maximum award of \$100,000, while the smallest amount approved was \$164.

The Legislature approved the aid this year over Gov. Nikki Haley's veto. It supplements crop insurance and covers 20 percent of the losses from October's floods.



Title: **No more detainees in SC - for now**  
 Author: Associated Press  
 Size: 18.29 column inches  
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# No more detainees in SC — for now

## Haley applauds House vote to un-fund Guantanamo transfers

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Some of South Carolina's top Republicans are heralding a U.S. House vote Thursday to temporarily halt the transfer of more detainees from the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

It's no surprise the state's Republicans support a measure that would bar the federal government from spending money on prisoner transfers. Along with locations in Colorado and Kansas, a Naval brig 15 miles from Charleston is among possible transfer sites already surveyed by

a Defense Department team — a possibility that has elicited concerns from officials including Gov. Nikki Haley about security and economic development threats.

"Moving terrorists from a secure facility outside of the United States to Charleston or releasing them back onto the battlefield is a risk the people of South Carolina aren't willing to take," Haley said in a statement released Thursday. She thanked the state's House Republicans for working with her "on what is a critical national security issue."

This spring, Haley criticized the federal

government for keeping her in the dark about plans calling for the possible transfer of detainees to South Carolina, telling a U.S. House panel she has heard no details about what she says could be detrimental for her state.

Last year, she and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback wrote to Defense Secretary Ash Carter that they would not "be part of any illegal and ill-advised action by this Administration, especially when that action relates to importing terrorists into our states." They threatened to sue if necessary.

Title: **Setting an**  
 Author: By ADAM BENSON abenson@indexjournal.com  
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# SETTING AN EXAMPLE

## SC Democratic Party head lauds Drummond, blasts Trump

By ADAM BENSON  
 abenson@indexjournal.com

**T**he modern day GOP should look toward the political careers of legendary lawmakers such as Marion P. Carnell and John Drummond if they hope to effectively govern at the state or national level, the chairman of South Carolina's Democratic Party said Thursday.

"Republicans have allowed far too many South Carolinians to endure hardships that they would never allow their brothers and sisters to endure. We need to remember the examples of Sen. John Drummond and Rep. Marion Carnell," Jamie Harrison told a crowd of about 80 during the ninth annual Carnell-Drummond Dinner. "The modern Republican party, this party of Trump, has utterly failed, and we're paying the price."

Between them, Carnell — a state representative from Ware Shoals who retired in 2002 after four decades — and Drummond served Greenwood County constituents for more than 80 years.

Drummond died Sept. 3 at age 96, while Carnell died in 2012 at 84 years old.

See **EXAMPLE**, page 5A

**"Republicans have allowed far too many South Carolinians to endure hardships that they would never allow their brothers and sisters to endure. We need to remember the examples of Sen. John Drummond and Rep. Marion Carnell."**

— Jamie Harrison  
 SC Democratic Party chairman



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## EXAMPLE

*Continued from 1A*

Harrison said the legislators built legacies of success because of their willingness to work across the aisle. He also assailed Gov. Nikki Haley, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan.

“Gov. Haley, Congressman Duncan, Lt. Gov. McMaster and Donald Trump, they want to take us back to some bygone era when America was supposedly greater than it is now. You know, nostalgia doesn’t have much of a place for me,” Harrison said.

Harrison also laid into Trump’s temperament and seeming affection for Russian President Vladimir Putin, which he called a “bromance” between the two.

“Republicans have nominated a candidate for president whose bigotry and egomania is deplorable. On the world stage, Donald Trump will alienate our allies and embolden our enemies,” Harrison said.

Drummond’s absence from the dinner that bears his name

was palpable, though many who spoke in his memory Thursday still referred to him in the present tense.

“I use the present tense because you can almost feel him in the room. His influence carries on here today,” said Robert Tinsley, a lifelong friend of Drummond’s. “Sen. Drummond’s value is reflected by his values. We certainly have on this Earth lost a great statesman.”

Drummond wasn’t the only major Greenwood Democrat

to die in 2016. Norval Davis, a former county party chairman who was active in the party for decades until his death in March, was also recognized.

Longtime friend Elaine Gentry said she and Davis would have marathon telephone conversations.

“Norval lost his mother at 9 years old, and that made him, I think, more compassionate. He was a forward looking man and he loved this community,” she said.

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Author: By ADAM BENSON abenson@indexjournal.com  
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ADAM BENSON | INDEX JOURNAL

South Carolina Democratic Party chairman Jamie Harrison looks at photographs of former Greenwood County legislators Marion P. Carnell and John Drummond before the ninth-annual dinner in their honor on Thursday at American Legion Post 20.

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Author: By ADAM BENSON abenson@indexjournal.com  
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ADAM BENSON | INDEX JOURNAL

Elaine Gentry, center, a former chairwoman of the Greenwood County Democratic Party, memorializes longtime party activist Norval Davis on Thursday at the ninth annual Carnell-Drummond Dinner in Greenwood. Davis' companion, Rhonda Coats, in white, looks on.

Title: **Haley, S.C. GOP leaders hail vote to halt Gitmo transfers**  
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD Associated Press  
 Size: 30.38 column inches  
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**STATE**

# Haley, S.C. GOP leaders hail vote to halt Gitmo transfers

BY MEG KINNARD  
 Associated Press

**COLUMBIA**

Some of South Carolina's top Republicans are heralding a U.S. House vote Thursday to temporarily halt the transfer of more detainees from the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

It's no surprise the state's Republicans support a measure that would bar the federal government from spending money on prisoner transfers. Along with locations in Colorado and Kansas, a Naval brig 15 miles from Charleston is among possible transfer sites already surveyed by a Defense Department team — a possibility that has elicited concerns from officials including Gov. Nikki Haley about security and economic development threats.

"Moving terrorists from a secure facility outside of the United States to Charleston or releasing them back onto the battlefield is a risk the people of South Carolina aren't willing to take," Haley said in a statement released Thursday. She thanked the state's House Republicans for working with her "on what is a critical national security issue."

This spring, Haley crit-

icized the federal government for keeping her in the dark about plans calling for the possible transfer of detainees to South Carolina, telling a U.S. House panel she has heard no details about what she says could be detrimental for her state. Last year, she and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback wrote to Defense Secretary Ash Carter that they would not "be part of any illegal and ill-advised action by this Administration, especially when that action relates to importing terrorists into our states." They threatened to sue if necessary.

Thursday's bill — which the White House has already said that President Barack Obama will veto — also gives Republicans an election year issue in Democrats' opposition to keeping open Guantanamo Bay, which currently houses about 60 detainees. According to a report released Wednesday by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, 122 of 693 detainees transferred out of the prison, or 17.6 percent, have returned to fighting. That's four more than the 118 recorded as having

re-engaged in militant activities in a report issued in March. The Obama administration has said transfers occur only after a rigorous review.

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson was the first South Carolina Republican to co-sponsor the funding measure. On the House floor, he said Thursday the president has been "reckless" in moving detainees from the prison, in efforts to fulfill a campaign promise to close it. U.S. Reps. Jeff Duncan and Trey Gowdy also called Obama's plan "reckless," with Gowdy calling on the president "to stop playing politics." In a statement, Duncan also asked House leadership to bring to a vote his own resolution that would allow Congress to sue Obama if the White House tries to initiate transfers to U.S. soil.

In a statement, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, South Carolina's lone congressional Democrat, pointed out that current law doesn't allow transfers to the U.S. anyway and that the bill is congressional Republicans' "deliberate and reckless attempt to be insulting to President Obama."

Title: **Politics of trickle-down neglect in South Carolina**  
 Author:  
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# Politics of trickle-down neglect in South Carolina

The true test of political leadership is about making the hard, long-term and right decision instead of the easy, short-term and wrong decision.

Said differently, do our political leaders genuinely work to solve problems or do they just kick the can down the road?

Unfortunately for our state, kicking the can down the road has been the unofficial sport of the Statehouse crowd for nearly a generation. Can kicking results from politicians who refuse to look down the road further than the next election. For too many, making tough decisions is just not in their nature.

The irony is that most politicians face few serious challenges to re-election. In some election years, more than 90 percent of incumbents who seek re-election win. Their campaign fundraising is easy in that they have a couple of fundraisers in Columbia and the special-interest groups ante up. The vast majority of funds raised by most members of the legislature is from the Statehouse special interest folks and not their constituents back home. And, once they build up a big war chest, they are less likely to be challenged either in a primary or a general election.

So let's talk specifics, what does this can kicking look like in concrete terms?

First is education. I don't think there is anyone in this state who would stand up and say, "South Carolina has good schools." The simple truth is

our schools are failing. Yes, there are some good schools (even great schools) and yes there are a lots of dedicated teachers (some are great teachers) and yes many of our school buildings are new and modern (some are great) – but overall our state's schools are failing our children.

There are a multitude of reasons why the schools are failing but the principle reason is simply long-term neglect. Back when Richard Riley was governor from 1978-86, South Carolina was known as one of the leading education reform states in the country. People came from far and wide to study what we were doing. (Full Disclosure: I serve as president of the SC New Democrats, and Riley was our founder). But, since then our governors have generally seemed to just care less and less about education – not all, but most.

During the recent recession, South Carolina's legislators cut both K-12 and higher education spending by a greater percentage than any state in the union. And, just this week when Gov. Haley said there would be a budget shortfall of \$200 million, she proposed to cut education spending by \$100 million.

Now a lot of our education problems won't be solved by money alone, but ask any teacher who reaches into their pocket each month (and most do) to buy needed schools supplies for their students if they support these cuts.

Schools don't deteriorate in

a few years and test scores don't fall over night – it's about long-term neglect.

Second is roads. Let me put this succinctly, we have among the worst roads in the country. A recent study found "throughout South Carolina, 46 percent of major roads and highways are in poor condition, a significant increase from 2008 when 32 percent of the state's major roads were rated in poor condition. 20 percent of South Carolina's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete ... (this) costs each S.C. driver as much as \$1,250 per year ... or \$3 billion statewide."

And yet the legislature refuses to support sensible solutions like raising the gas tax to fix the roads – our gas tax is among the lowest in the country. And, the problem with roads is not just one of money. Most objective observers would say that the Department of Transportation should be renamed the Department of Corruption – and it's been that way for a very long time.

Roads don't deteriorate in a few years and systemic corruption does not develop overnight – it's about long-term neglect.

Third is pension. There are today 558,000 former state employees, teachers and police officers who depend on their state retirement to put food on the table, buy their medicines and sustain them in their daily life. And, their pension fund is \$20 billion in the hole – and the hole is

getting deeper. Just last year alone, the hole got \$1.4 billion deeper.

Several years back, an analysis found that we were paying exorbitant fees to fund managers to manage the money, among the highest of any state, and they gave us about the lowest return on investment of any state. This can largely be explained in one word: corruption.

Sen. Kevin Bryan, chairman of a new committee charged with figuring out what to do called the unfunded pensions "the state's biggest problem of the decade."

Pension funds don't deteriorate in a few years and deficits don't grow overnight – it's about long-term neglect.

When Bryan says pensions are the state's biggest problem of the decade, he's right – and he's wrong. Yes, pensions are the biggest problem – and education and roads are the biggest problem, as well.

We have three huge "problems of the decade" – and we have to solve them all at once.

So, back to my opening line – the true test of political leadership is about making the hard, long-term and right decision instead of the easy, short-term and wrong decision.

Our political leaders have failed this test – and the question is what will they do now?

*(Phil Noble is a businessman in Charleston and president of the SC New Democrats, an independent reform group founded by former Gov. Richard Riley to bring*

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Author:

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*big change and real reform.  
You may email him at phil@  
snewdemocrats.org.)*

**Guest column**



**Phil Noble**

Title: **Haley applauds vote to un-fund transfers from Guantanamo**  
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD Associated Press  
 Size: 34.41 column inches  
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



# Haley applauds vote to un-fund transfers from Guantanamo

BY MEG KINNARD

*Associated Press*

COLUMBIA — Some of South Carolina's top Republicans are heralding a U.S. House vote Thursday to temporarily halt the transfer of more detainees from the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

It's no surprise the state's Republicans support a measure that would bar the federal government from spending money on prisoner transfers. Along with locations in Colorado and Kansas, a Naval brig 15 miles from Charleston is among possible transfer sites already surveyed by a Defense Department team — a possibility that has elicited concerns from officials including Gov. Nikki Haley about security and economic development threats.

"Moving terrorists from a secure facility outside of the United States to Charleston or releasing them back onto the battlefield is a risk the people of South Carolina aren't willing to take," Haley said in a statement released Thursday. She thanked the state's House Republicans for working with her "on what is a critical national security issue."

This spring, Haley criticized the federal government for keeping her in the dark about

plans calling for the possible transfer of detainees to South Carolina, telling a U.S. House panel she has heard no details about what she said could be detrimental for her state.

Last year, she and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback wrote to Defense Secretary Ash Carter that they would not "be part of any illegal and ill-advised action by this administration, especially when that action relates to importing terrorists into our states." They threatened to sue if necessary.

Thursday's bill — which the White House has already said that President Barack Obama will veto — also gives Republicans an election year issue in Democrats' opposition to keeping open Guantanamo Bay, which currently houses about 60 detainees.

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review.

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson was the first South Carolina Republican to co-sponsor the funding measure. On the House floor, he said Thursday the president has been "reckless" in moving detainees from the prison, in efforts to fulfill a campaign promise to close it.

U.S. Reps. Jeff Duncan and Trey Gowdy also called Obama's plan "reckless," with Gowdy calling on the president "to stop playing politics." In a statement, Duncan also asked House leadership to bring to a vote his own resolution that would allow Congress to sue Obama if the White House tries to initiate transfers to U.S. soil.

In a statement to The Associated Press, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, South Carolina's lone congressional Democrat, pointed out that current law doesn't allow transfers to the U.S. anyway and that the bill is congressional Republicans' "deliberate and reckless attempt to be insulting to President Obama."

The ban, which passed Thursday, would last until the end of the calendar year, or until a bill authorizing defense funding is signed into law.

Title: **Department of Agriculture announces amounts for farm aid grants**  
 Author: BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND [ccleveland@aikenstandard.com](mailto:ccleveland@aikenstandard.com)  
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 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



## Department of Agriculture announces amounts for farm aid grants

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

[ccleveland@aikenstandard.com](mailto:ccleveland@aikenstandard.com)

Aiken County farmers who applied for farm aid grants to recover from last October's flooding were awarded \$370,555, according to information provided by the S.C. Department of Agriculture, or SCDA.

Nearly a year after the historic rainfall that caused the flooding, the department announced in a news release it is mailing checks for the South Carolina Farm Aid grants today to a little more than 1,200 farmers statewide.

In its news release, SCDA said information gathered from the grant applications confirmed its earlier estimates of 75 percent crop loss as a result of the flood.

Only 37 percent of those losses were covered by crop insurance, the release said.

According to the SCDA, overall, 1,244 farmers were approved for a total award amount of \$35,512,560.

There were 88 applicants, with grant amounts ranging from \$164 to \$100,000. The average award was

\$28,364.

As for counties near Aiken, a map provided by SCDA shows Edgefield's award amount was \$194,558; Saluda, \$204,617; Lexington, \$666,693; Barnwell, \$543,184; and Orangeburg, \$4,400,317.

The S.C. Department of Revenue assisted the department in reviewing the applications and Clemson Extension personnel coordinated training sessions for farmers submitting applications, according to the release.

"Approaching the anniversary of the flood, I am pleased to report that less than four months have passed from the time this bill became law until farmers will have money in their hands," Commissioner Hugh Weathers said in the statement. "SCDA, along with SCDOR, worked diligently to administer this program effectively and efficiently."

The S.C. General Assembly approved \$40 million in aid in May for

farms in communities affected by last year's flooding. Eligible farmers could receive grants covering 20 percent of their verified crop loss up to \$100,000.

Gov. Nikki Haley has previously called the legislation a "bail out" and said other industries also suffered losses. Haley fulfilled her promise to veto the bill, and the General Assembly voted to override her veto in May.

"The legislation was well crafted and the grants provide a lifeline for farmers, not a bail-out," Weathers said in Thursday's statement. "It has been a challenging and rewarding experience to complete this program so timely to help our farmers."

The SCDA said more information on South Carolina Farm Aid can be found by visiting [agriculture.sc.gov](http://agriculture.sc.gov), or by calling Stephanie Sox at 803-734-2196 or emailing [ssox@scda.sc.gov](mailto:ssox@scda.sc.gov).

**Christina Cleveland** is the county government reporter at the *Aiken Standard*.

Title: **Haley calls on MUSC board to pay for expensive meals**  
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## Haley calls on MUSC board to pay for expensive meals

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — Gov. Nikki Haley wants members of the board of the Medical University of South Carolina to reimburse the school for expensive meals and hotel stays during their board meetings.

Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams told The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/2cUOd59>) the governor has already asked her appointee to the schools governing board, Dr. Harold Jablon, to repay more than \$20,000 he was reimbursed for the meals, wine and luxury hotel rooms.

“We asked Dr. Jablon to repay the Medical University of South Carolina, which he has agreed to do, and his colleagues should do the same,” Adams said.

The Post and Courier reported that the MUSC board spent about \$560,000 since 2011, largely on hotel rooms and food, at their six meetings per year in Charleston.

Dr. Donald Johnson, chair-

man of the MUSC trustees, has ordered a review of the board’s spending.

“I have called for the immediate review of the board spending policies in order to define and align with best practices as we move forward,” Johnson said in a letter to the newspaper.

According to Johnson, the review will include two board members, university finance, compliance and legal officers as well as two external members.

Last week, the state inspector general told The Post and Courier that he had begun investigating the MUSC Board of Trustees’ spending habits at the request of the State Commission on Higher Education, which oversees the state’s public colleges and universities.



**NIKKI  
HALEY**

Title: **Haley turns BabyNet over to Medicaid agency**  
 Author:  
 Size: 8.21 column inches  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



## Haley turns BabyNet over to Medicaid agency

COLUMBIA

South Carolina is moving control of its program to help babies with development delays from the First Steps school readiness program to the state's Medicaid agency.

Gov. Nikki Haley signed an executive order Wednesday putting BabyNet under control of the Department of Health and Human Services.

A news release from the governor's office says the move will make BabyNet more efficient, since Medicaid already pays for more than half of births in the state and has a relationship with families before their children are born.

BabyNet provides services for babies who are slow to talk, walk or have other developmental delays until they turn age 3.

Haley says the move will become official next July.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS