

**From:** Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>  
**To:** Catherine McNicoll <CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>  
**Date:** 4/11/2018 8:39:43 AM  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Request for interview

---

According to you, did these UI provisions in the 2009 and 2012 federal legislation form a coherent set of policies and what was the motivation behind them?

I didn't work on these federal provisions, so I cannot speak to the motivations or context.

Did these federal UI provisions restrict or enable the SC legislature in designing and maintaining your own UI program? If so how?

Changes in federal law did allow state-level flexibility. Work requirements and data exchange updates, for instance, allowed our UI agency director to tailor her programs to the specific conditions in SC.

How were relations between State policy-makers and federal policy-makers, and specifically between the SC State Senate and the federal government, during the Great Recession with respect to UI?

We relied upon the SC agency director and staff to keep us apprised of federal developments, but we worked mostly on our own to tailor our laws to the specifics here in SC.

What was the motivation for the SC State legislature to reduce the maximum number of weekly benefits an individual on UI can receive?

The simple proposition was, and is, that paying people not to work disincentivizes them to work. And, it costs taxpayers a whole lot of money. Reduction was a benefit to both.

Do you feel that federal policy-makers were concerned about the integrity and design of state UI programs during the crisis? Why or why not, and if so, were there concern justified in your opinion?

I really can't say what the federal concerns were, but I know that our system needed a massive overhaul, and I believe that we achieved that.

---

**From:** Catherine McNicoll  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 9:40 AM  
**To:** Danny Varat  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Request for interview

Please advise

*Best Regards,*  
Catherine McNicoll  
Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
[CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov)  
803-734-5292 (phone)

**From:** Chris Luigjes [mailto:chrisluigjes@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2018 8:40 PM

**To:** Catherine McNicoll  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Request for interview

Hello Deborah,

Thank you for your response, and thanks to the Lt. Governor for his willingness to answer some questions through email. Here are some questions I'm interested in:

Federal legislation during the crisis, such as the 2009 ARRA and the 2012 Middle Class Act, included important UI provisions besides those that extended benefits (to refresh I include a short document with some of these provisions). Some of these provisions were mandatory reemployment services (RESEA) and work search requirements as a requirement for UI eligibility, the non-reduction rule, UI modernization payments etc. According to you, did these UI provisions in the 2009 and 2012 federal legislation form a coherent set of policies and what was the motivation behind them?

Did these federal UI provisions restrict or enable the SC legislature in designing and maintaining your own UI program? If so how?

How were relations between State policy-makers and federal policy-makers, and specifically between the SC State Senate and the federal government, during the Great Recession with respect to UI?

What was the motivation for the SC State legislature to reduce the maximum number of weekly benefits an individual on UI can receive?

Do you feel that federal policy-makers were concerned about the integrity and design of state UI programs during the crisis? Why or why not, and if so, were there concern justified in your opinion?

Thank you so much,  
Kind regards,

Chris

On Fri, Apr 6, 2018, 14:53 Catherine McNicoll <[CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon Chris,

This week the Senate has been on Furlough and the Lieutenant Governor has not been in the office. Next week is Senate Budget week. As a result of these events, the Lieutenant Governor will not be able to meet with you. However, if you have some questions you would like to send, he will answer them asap. Thank you.

*Best Regards,*  
*Catherine McNicoll*  
*Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs*  
*Lieutenant Governor's Office*  
[CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov)  
803-734-5292 (phone)

---

**From:** Deborah Aiken  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 04, 2018 10:13 AM  
**To:** Catherine McNicoll <[CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request for interview

Catherine, this email is from a gentleman that wants to interview with the Lt. Governor. I put the request in your folder last week. In case there is an answer prior to my arrival Monday I am sending this as reference.

Thank You,

Deborah Aiken  
Assistant to the Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
[DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov)  
803-734-0107

**From:** Chris Luigjes [<mailto:chrisluigjes@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 04, 2018 10:10 AM  
**To:** Deborah Aiken <[DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for interview

Hello Deborah,

I'm just checking in to see if there are any updates. My thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

Chris

2018-03-30 10:41 GMT-04:00 Deborah Aiken <[DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov)>:

Good morning Mr. Luigjes,

In regards to your request someone will get back to you shortly to inform you if it can be initiated.

Thank You,

Deborah Aiken  
Assistant to the Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
[DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov)  
803-734-0107

**From:** Chris Luigjes [<mailto:chrisluigjes@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 4:59 PM  
**To:** Deborah Aiken <[DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DeborahAiken@scstatehouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request for interview

Hi Deborah,

I got your email address through Lisa Widener in the office of Senator Alexander. Senator Alexander recommended I would contact Lt. Gov. Bryant regarding the following:

My name is Chris Luigjes and I'm a PhD-student from the Netherlands visiting the US for two months. I'm conducting interviews with federal and state policy-makers regarding federal-state relations in welfare and unemployment insurance. I'm visiting Washington DC, Richmond VA, Olympia WA and Columbia SC to do so. Given Lt. Gov Bryant's experience in the SC Senate working on unemployment insurance, I'm very interested in interviewing him on SC's UI system and federal-state relations in this context.

Ideally, the interview would take around 1 hour. Of course, it will be on the basis of anonymity. I'm in Columbia from 2 to 14 April. Would the Lt. Gov. be willing and available for a meeting during that time frame?

If you have any questions regarding me or my research interest, let me know.

Kind regards,

Chris Luigjes

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa M. Widener** <[LisaWidener@scsenate.gov](mailto:LisaWidener@scsenate.gov)>

Date: 2018-03-26 11:26 GMT-04:00

Subject: Request for Interview with Senator Thomas Alexander

To: "[chrisluigjes@gmail.com](mailto:chrisluigjes@gmail.com)" <[chrisluigjes@gmail.com](mailto:chrisluigjes@gmail.com)>

Dear Mr. Luigjes,

Thank you for your email to Senator Thomas Alexander regarding an interview you would like to do with him in the timeframe of April 12-14, 2018.

Senator Alexander was not Chairman of the Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee at that time you are referring. He suggests that you contact Lt. Governor Kevin Bryant. He was formerly a State Senator who worked extensively in this area. He now serves as our SC Lt. Governor. His office telephone number is 803-734-2080.

Thank you and let me know if you need any further information.

Lisa Manini Widener  
Director of Research  
Senate Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee  
Office of Senator Thomas Alexander, Chairman  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Telephone: (803) 212-6220  
Fax: (803) 212-6299  
Email: [lisawidener@scsenate.gov](mailto:lisawidener@scsenate.gov)