

From: Patel, Swati  
To: Haley, Nikki <NikkiHaley@gov.sc.gov>  
CC: Walls, Courtney <CourtneyWalls@gov.sc.gov>  
Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>  
Date: 12/4/2013 11:14:26 AM  
Subject: Ethic Event in MB

---

We heard from Senator Rankin this morning that he may attend the Ethics Reform press conference in Myrtle Beach today – he is in a mediation hearing and may not get out in time but will try to be there.

Background on Rankin regarding Ethics:

- ☐ Serves as the Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee;
- ☐ Served as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics Reform appointed by Courson;
- ☐ His position on Ethics Reform:
  - He has repeatedly made these types of comments in hearings and on the floor: “Ethics may be a problem in other branches (House and Executive Branch), but not the Senate. How we handled the Sen. Ford case shows that we are doing things right.”
  - He is opposed to an independent ethics commission that investigates the Legislature. He talked for 1 hour on the Senate Floor against H.3945 mainly talking about the Sen. Ford case.
  - He supports adding False Claims Act to H. 3945.
  - He believes more random audits and possibly requiring public officials to provide bank statements to verify proper expenditures is a better solution. (Note: McMaster-Medlock also recommended random audits)

Suggested Talking Points if Rankin attends:

- ☐ No one has vetted these issues more than Senator Rankin. Every group that has come before him in the numerous hearings he has held, has supported the McMaster-Medlock proposal – including an independent ethics commission. These groups and the citizens of Horry County understand very well that the fox should not be guarding the hen house.
- ☐ We have strong support from Republican Senators on the need for an independent ethics commission, I hope we will have that support from Sen. Rankin as well.
- ☐ I look forward to his leadership on the floor of the Senate to vote for H. 3945 and prevent this bill from being watered down or given a poison pill amendment. I look forward to celebrating this historic reform with him when this bill gets to my desk.

Swati S. Patel  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Office of the Governor.South Carolina  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
DD 803.734.5095