

**From:** Ellen Weaver <[Ellen@palmettopolicy.org](mailto:Ellen@palmettopolicy.org)>  
**To:** Soura, Christian [ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)  
**CC:** Card, Rachel [RachelCard@gov.sc.gov](mailto:RachelCard@gov.sc.gov)  
**Date:** 5/30/2013 4:41:40 PM  
**Subject:** RE: The Florida Story: Legislative Information Session on 6/5

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Sweet.

We've got it down.

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**From:** Soura, Christian [<mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 4:38 PM  
**To:** Ellen Weaver  
**Cc:** Card, Rachel  
**Subject:** RE: The Florida Story: Legislative Information Session on 6/5

Thanks – can we shoot for 10:30, to meet here again? I have to put an asterisk on it, since it's the final session week, and I might get pulled away, but I'm hoping that slot will work. Rachel will be here either way. Thanks.

CLS

Christian L. Soura  
Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792  
[ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)

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**From:** Ellen Weaver [<mailto:Ellen@palmettopolicy.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 4:28 PM  
**To:** Soura, Christian  
**Subject:** The Florida Story: Legislative Information Session on 6/5

Christian,

Thx as always for taking time to sit down today – truly appreciate it and hope we'll be able to get the Gov. on board with the CF "pledge" concept. We'll go anywhere anytime if she's willing to sign.

Also, wanted to make sure you have a copy of the following for your files. Chairmen are good with this going far and wide to anyone we think it would be helpful to have attend.

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**Ellen E. Weaver**

President  
Palmetto Policy Forum  
803-708-0673





## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

**Andy Patrick**  
District No. 123 – Beaufort County  
P.O. Box 22676  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29925  
Tel. (843) 290-6606

**Legislative Information Session on Education**  
**Wednesday, June 5**  
**Room 108 Blatt, 8:30 a.m.**

308-A Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Tel. (803) 212-6928  
email: andypatrick@schouse.gov

**Committee:**  
Education and Public Works

**Guest Speaker: Mary Laura Bragg**  
National Director Policy/Implementation  
Foundation for Excellence in Education

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to invite you to join us for a very important legislative information session on education.

Many of you are aware of the dramatic improvement in performance enjoyed by students in the State of Florida. The architects of the Florida model will be joining us at the Statehouse next week. This session is open to all members of the General Assembly, agencies and staff.

### **About Mary Laura Bragg**



A former classroom teacher, Mary Laura Bragg directed the statewide literacy initiative, *Just Read, Florida!* As director, she was responsible for crafting and implementing the policies that helped place a command focus on reading instruction there. Ms. Bragg has served on advisory groups on adolescent literacy for both the Alliance for Excellent Education and the National Governors Association. She is also a member of Carnegie Corporation of New York's Advisory Council on Advancing Adolescent Literacy.

### **The Florida Story**

Since 1998, Florida has undergone an education transformation. Beginning with a belief that *all* children can learn and harnessing the power of principle-based policy entrepreneurship, Florida leaders came together around a bi-partisan agenda of data-driven accountability, high expectations, funding for achievement, choice for families and rewarding effective teachers. The good news: students at the bottom proved the biggest winners from Florida's no-nonsense reforms.

While improvements didn't happen overnight, the fruits of Florida's long-term revolution into a national model for higher standards, accountability and options continues to be seen in the achievement of Florida students and in the hope Florida's example extends to other states across the country.

Please join us on June 5 to hear the Florida Story and interact with Mary Laura and her team.

Sincerely,

Rep. Phillip D. Owens  
Chairman, Education & Public Works Committee

Rep. Andrew S. Patrick  
Chairman, K-12 Education Subcommittee