

NEWS ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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College Presidents Deliver Open Letter to Governor Haley **Address Threats to Religious Freedom**

Concerned that federal and state actions could ultimately deny them the ability to fulfill their faith-based missions, seven (7) evangelical Christian college presidents have penned an open letter to the people of the state raising awareness of this issue and calling for vigilance in the protection of religious institutions.

Addressed to Governor Haley as representative of the state and its people, the letter also asks for her to “stand against any attempt...to infringe on religious freedom, and...to use [her] platform as Governor to promote religious freedom.”

The presidents specifically cited California Bill S.1146. As originally introduced, this bill would deny college students the ability to participate in state grant programs if institutions were found in violation of state gender identity policies.

The college leaders also warned of the impact of regulatory mandates on churches and educational institutions that could force students to use bathrooms and showers with members of the opposite biological sex, even though to do so violates the privacy of students who may object on the basis of their deeply held religious values.

Signers to the letter crossed denominational boundaries, with Baptist, Presbyterian, Wesleyan and non-denominational universities and colleges represented.

Palmetto Family, a faith-based public policy research foundation founded in 1994, coordinated the writing and dissemination of the Letter from Seven Presidents. A similar effort was coordinated nationally by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Attached: An Open Letter to Governor Haley from Seven South Carolina College Presidents.