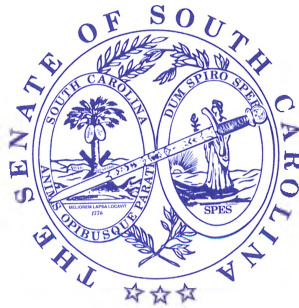


SEAN M. BENNETT
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SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 38

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May 28, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor
South Carolina Statehouse, First Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

In January and February of this year, South Carolina experienced its largest winter storm in over a decade, shuttering schools across the state from three to six days. With bipartisan support, the General Assembly passed and you signed a resolution to allow school boards to waive up to five missed days if their district exhausted the instructional makeup days programmed into their calendar pursuant to existing state law. This resolution effectively balanced the need to preserve instructional time against the need to meet each school district's annual instructional timetable.

What we have found in recent days is that many districts circumvent state law by scheduling their inclement weather makeup days at the end of their school year. Although this brings a them into technical compliance with state law, these instructional days are of no academic use to students and opening schools during this scheduled time could be seen as a waste of taxpayer dollars.

The practice of school districts scheduling unusable makeup days to maintain compliance with instructional requirements should stop. We will work with you to pass legislation next year guaranteeing instructional make-up will be scheduled throughout the school year and in a manner that actually preserves instruction time. However, we believe there is no use in requiring that current year students attend instructional days that will be of no use to them academically. Accordingly, I request that you sign H.5253 currently on your desk and subsequent resolutions that excuse the inclement weather makeup day requirement for districts affected by this year's winter storms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Bennett".

Sean M. Bennett

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Robt W Hayes Jr".

Robert W. Hayes, Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E Courson".

John E. Courson
President *Pro Tempore*
Chairman, Senate Education Committee