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November 21, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

The South Carolina Hospital Association will host our annual meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2015, and we would like to extend a cordial invitation in hopes that you can join us.

This event is our first of the calendar year and typically is designed to unite hospital members around core issues expected to play out during the legislative session. Recognizing that we've worked so closely with both the Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office over the past 12-18 months, we thought this meeting would be a great opportunity for you to highlight some of the major accomplishments our state has achieved under your leadership to include Healthy Outcomes Plans, the Birth Outcomes Initiative, and the statewide Ebola preparedness response.

As a part of highlighting those accomplishments, we would also like to recognize the leadership of Tony Keck as immediate past director of the agency. Tony worked very closely with hospitals, and we're proud of the significant innovations under his tenure.

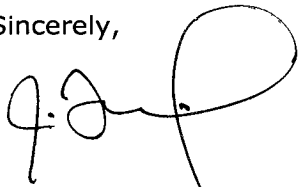
With respect to Ebola, the SCHA Board of Trustees recently voted to recognize all hospitals in our state, and particularly the four regional treatment centers, for their leadership in preparing our state for a public health emergency. That recognition would be even more significant if it were presented by you as Governor during our annual meeting.

Finally, we'd like to have you introduce the new director, Christian Soura, and allow him to make any opening comments about his vision for continuing to work with hospitals, the future of Medicaid, and related issues.

The Hospital Association and DHHS are working closely together on a number of important issues, from Healthy Outcomes to Healthy Connections Checkups to Disproportionate Share to Birth Outcomes. We have much to do in order to make South Carolina a leader in health status, but the partnership we have developed in recent years between DHHS and the hospital community has already enabled us to achieve outcomes worthy of national acclaim. We have every confidence our greatest successes are ahead of us, and we look forward to celebrating them with you.

I hope your schedule will permit you to join us on January 29. If not, however, we will look for alternatives. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call on me if SCHA or I can be of help to you and your team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kirby', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

J. Thornton Kirby, FACHE
President & CEO