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**Subject:** Legislative Biz Plan for 2017

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## Legislative Biz Plan for 2017

Dear Friends:

Most of us greet the New Year with enthusiasm; it's a fresh start. Those are my sentiments as we returned to the SC Statehouse this past week for the 122nd legislative session. I'm optimistic we have the time, talent and wherewithal to tackle the challenges and opportunities facing the great Palmetto State.

### House Republicans Business Plan

This week, House Republicans issued a 'Business Plan' for 2017 focusing on the growth of existing and future jobs.

Since voters gave Republicans control of the SC House in 1994, the most significant legislative achievements originated in the Caucus Agenda. There is a long list of REFORMS: workers' compensation, property taxes, illegal immigration, campaign finances, DOT, ethics, and elimination of the Budget and Control Board, among many others. We have a history of accomplishing our agenda quickly and thoroughly. We plan to do that again this year with this business plan:

## My Personal Agenda

While I fully support the House Republican Caucus Biz Agenda, every legislator has critical issues of personal interest. Here are two of mine:

### Saving America

My highest priority is passage of legislation ([H.3233](#)) calling for an Article V Convention of States. In my view, this is the single most important vote to be cast by any legislator. Curbing the power of the federal government is critically important to the long-term survival of America and only state legislators have the constitutional authority to do so. Those running Washington D.C. will never limit their own power, will never pass an amendment to balance the national budget, put term limits on themselves or allow states their rightful constitutional authority; it is up to States to corral them. ([Learn More](#))

### Government Transparency

Government at all levels belongs to the people who have a right to know what's going on. That's why I again pre-filed legislation ([H.3352](#)) to reform the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to allow greater access to the disclosure of public records. This will be the seventh year I have fought for this legislation. It came very close to passage last session, but was held up by one senator. It died in a House-Senate conference committee in the final hours of the session last June. I believe this legislation to enhance SC's FOIA has a good chance of passing this session. The Aiken Standard reports on the legislative agenda of members of the Aiken County legislative delegation: ([Link](#)).

Just prior to the start of the legislative session, I briefed reporters, editors and publishers from around the state on the FOIA legislation during their annual Statehouse Press Day.

## Saying Farewell

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Gov. Nikki Haley gave her final State of the State address this week saying "Ladies and Gentlemen, the state of our state is blessed." A confirmation hearing on her nomination as United Nations Ambassador is scheduled for next week. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will be our next Governor. To view the brief video excerpts of her address [click here](#). The Aiken Standard reviews her six year tenure in this editorial ([click here](#)).

As she prepared to give her farewell address,  
I wished Gov. Haley great success as U.N.  
Ambassador.

## Real ID Okay

South Carolinians will be able to use their driver's licenses to fly on airplanes, and enter military bases and federal buildings. Our state has been given an extension until June 6 to meet the federal ID requirements of the Real ID Act intended to make secure, modern identification consistent across the country by linking the information the person used to get a driver's license. The extension gives the state more time to work with federal officials. Hopefully, it will be easier to work with the new Trump administration.

## In YOUR Service

As always, thank you for the privilege of serving you in Columbia. If I can ever be of assistance to you, or if you have ideas on issues you want me to share with the rest of the General Assembly, please don't hesitate to contact me. Strong Voice and Effective Leader.

[Click Here](#)

## In your Service,

**Bill Taylor**

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Representative  
South Carolina General  
Assembly

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## Photo of the Week

Congratulation to Rep. Rita Allison who was honored with the Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership on the first day of session. No legislator has worked harder, brought more people together, and put progress before partisanship in solving SC's public education issues than Rep. Allison.

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