

From: Brenan, Michael <MBrenan@BBandT.com>  
To: Barton, Melaniembarton@eoc.sc.gov  
CC: Spearman, Mollymspearman@ed.sc.gov  
Baker, JoshJoshBaker@gov.sc.gov  
Mottel, HaleyHaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov  
Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
Date: 1/30/2016 7:20:04 AM  
Subject: Re: Legislative Update

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Melanie,

Yes, please share at SBE. Hopefully you and your team will have opportunities to provide testimony and give them the truth. As always I like your ideas.

Mike

Mike Brenan  
State President  
BB&T  
803-251-1440  
803-312-3674 ( mobile )  
Sent from iPad

On Jan 30, 2016, at 7:11 AM, Barton, Melanie <[mbarton@eoc.sc.gov](mailto:mbarton@eoc.sc.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Mike. I am concerned about misinformation about the EOC's 4K evaluation. I have contacted legislative staff and I am going to have a discussion of the findings at our next EOC meeting. If you'd like me to talk about it at SBE meeting I will. What was said on Thursday is far from the truth especially about quality.

I am more than willing to help in any way on this issue. Having been the first entity to recommend public and private options for 4K, we do have suggestions for improving and incentivizing quality for private centers. One approach would be to create apprenticeship programs with public schools.

EOC wants one thing - more children in poverty to be ready for 5k.

Melanie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2016, at 4:55 PM, "Brenan, Michael" <[MBrenan@BBandT.com](mailto:MBrenan@BBandT.com)> wrote:

I thought you want to see Rick's seven points.

## Mike Brennan

**BB&T** – State President - SC Region

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**From:** Rick Noble [<mailto:rick@noblebelfast.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2016 4:41 PM

**To:** Brennan, Michael

**Subject:** FW: Legislative Update

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**From:** Rick Noble

**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2016 4:41 PM

**To:** 'kbw@swblaw.com' <[kbw@swblaw.com](mailto:kbw@swblaw.com)>

**Cc:** 'JCHussey@civiccommunications.com' <[JCHussey@civiccommunications.com](mailto:JCHussey@civiccommunications.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Legislative Update

Ken

Not sure if you will get/read this before your weekend starts but wanted to get it out of my laptop ASAP.

Regards the message below and previous messages I've sent:

- 1) I highly recommend that you intervene with staff and be sure that any communication related to reauthorization being sent to CPs be written/reviewed/cleared by you and preferably sent by you. The Board is the governing body and responsible for any position that it takes regarding legislation. As Chair you are our spokesman.
- 2) I think the Board needs to schedule a special session, executive and without staff, to discuss if/whether to take a position.
- 3) Legislators (ours and others) can do what they like regardless of what anyone else thinks. I'm uncomfortable, and will say so, with the legislation being considered and with it occasionally but not always being as "coming from the SCFS BOT Legislative Committee. If in fact it's a real committee then it's recommendations should go before the full Board for approval or not. I realize this is fantasy, but want the record to show the will of the Board and not just 4 legislators.
- 4) I think the Board needs to schedule a forum for EDs similar to what was planned for Wednesday but postponed. I would suggest that you wait until you know if/when "competing legislation" instructive of the Governor's proposals is filed. Then and only then would we have some details to discuss/question.
- 5) I think proponents of the 5 year reauthorization will do a good job of articulating reasons why SCFS should remain as structured. Lisa Van Riper certainly did that on Thursday morning. However that ignores the real possibility that there is a "better way." I would ask you to ask SCFS staff to articulate any significant negatives (beyond "change" or potential job loss) about the governor's proposal. Besides FUD, fear uncertainty and doubt, what conceptually and operationally, is wrong with moving BabyNet and 4K to other agencies with greater capabilities and higher probabilities for success? And what are the negatives with having Children's Trust provide "oversight/support/and financial management" of state funds allocated to CPs?

- 6) I believe SCFS is broken and that the culture won't change, especially with a 5 year renewal. Let's hear the arguments against trying to do things better, about letting go of the things that aren't being done as well as they could be and are clearly beyond the "skills and capacity" of the current organization. What more proof do we need?
- 7) It's especially concerning that neither the Brenan Committee report nor the ongoing James Smith Oversight Committee hearings were mentioned during Thursday morning's meeting. I think both reviews point to the need for change.

Seven is enough.

Have a great weekend.

Rick

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**From:** Rick Noble

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2016 4:18 PM

**To:** 'kbw@swblaw.com' <kbw@swblaw.com>

**Subject:** FW: Legislative Update

Just in case you're not being copied.

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**From:** Julia-Ellen Davis [<mailto:jecdavis=scfirststeps.org@mail251.suw14.mcdlv.net>] **On Behalf Of** Julia-Ellen Davis

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2016 3:02 PM

**To:** Rick <[rnoble@rcfirststeps.org](mailto:rnoble@rcfirststeps.org)>

**Subject:** Legislative Update

<image008.jpg>

## Good afternoon First Steps EDs,

As promised earlier, we wanted to provide you a more detailed update related to reauthorization activity at the SC Statehouse.

Earlier today, companion **bills designed to reauthorize SC First Steps** until 2021 (and on five year cycles thereafter) were **filed in both the House and Senate**.

**House Bill 4774** (which can be viewed by clicking [here](#)) was introduced with 38 bi-partisan (initial) co-sponsors. These are:

Rep. Jerry Govan (Orangeburg – D),  
Rep. J. Anne Parks (Greenwood – D),  
Rep. John King (York – D),  
Rep. Shannon Erickson (Beaufort – R),  
Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (Orangeburg – D)  
Rep. Bill Clyburn (Aiken – D),  
Rep. James Smith (Richland – D)  
Rep. Heather Crawford (Horry – R),  
Rep. Richie Yow (Chesterfield – R),

Rep. Mia McLeod (Richland – D),  
Rep. Russell Ott (Calhoun – D),  
Rep. Pat Henegan (Marlboro – D),  
Rep. Roger Kirby (Florence – D),  
Rep. Robert L. Brown (Charleston – D),  
Rep. Wendell Gilliard (Charleston – D),  
Rep. Dwight Loftis (Greenville – R),  
Rep. Mike Burns (Greenville – R),  
Rep. Lonnie Hosey (Barnwell – D),  
Rep. Robert Williams (Darlington – D),  
Rep. Leon Howard (Richland – D),  
Rep. Joe Neal (Richland – D),  
Rep. MaryGail Douglas (Fairfield – D),  
Rep. David Mack (Charleston – D),  
Rep. Mary Tinkler (Charleston – D),  
Rep. Weston Newton (Beaufort – R),  
Rep. Justin Bamberg (Bamberg – D),  
Rep. Joe Jefferson (Berkeley – D),  
Rep. Joshua Putnam (Anderson – R),  
Rep. Dan Hamilton (Greenville – R),  
Rep. Grady Brown (Lee – D),  
Rep. Alan Clemmons (Horry – R),  
Rep. Chandra Dillard (Greenville – D),  
Rep. Gregory Duckworth (Horry – R),  
Rep. Donna Hicks (Spartanburg – R),  
Rep. Ken Hodges (Colleton – D),  
Rep. Walt McLeod (Newberry – D),  
Rep. Garry Smith (Greenville – R), and  
Rep. Wendy Nanney (Greenville - R).

**Senate Bill 1038** was filed shortly thereafter and [can be viewed here](#). Its initial sponsors were Trustees Mike Fair (Greenville - R) and Gerald Malloy (Darlington - D). Senators Vincent Sheheen (Kershaw - D), Thomas McElveen (Sumter- D) and Brad Hutto (Orangeburg - D) have since been added.

In introducing the Senate Bill, **Senator Fair made the following remarks:**

*"Thank you, Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. Senator Malloy has stepped out of the chamber, but he and I are co-sponsors of this legislation offering reauthorization for First Steps. He and I would encourage any and all of you to join us, as the Senator from Camden [Sheheen] just did, in adding your names to the bill.*

*Perhaps many of you know that I am a state trustee, along with the Senator from Darlington, Senator Malloy, and so it's nothing out of the ordinary for us to*

be very big on First Steps. But what First Steps has done over time is created a national model. Now these aren't my words, or his, these are the words of a lady named Karen Ponder. She is not just an average citizen, she is one of the foremost experts on early childhood in our country today.

Ladies and gentlemen, what we are doing with First Steps is right. It's taken 16 years to get to the point where we are. In the most recent external evaluation of First Steps, evaluators found that First Steps is meeting each of the goals that we, as members of the General Assembly, have handed them. They have accountability systems, state and local and found that First Steps is the 'battery' powering early childhood in South Carolina.

Last week the Education Oversight Committee released its most recent evaluation of the state's 4K program. What they found was that children in First Steps' private 4K programs were getting results as good or better as those attending public schools. And here's the interesting thing about First Steps. It costs about 75 cents on the dollar, so we are getting a bargain in many ways.

So today Senator Malloy and I are delighted to introduce this bill reauthorizing First Steps until 2021 and then on a cyclical basis thereafter. Again, we would invite all of you to join us in this reauthorization conversation and bill."

Following Senator Fair, **Senator Malloy added the following remarks:**

"Thank you Mr. President and members of the Senate. I joined as a recent member of the Board of Trustees for First Steps. The Senator from Richland, Senator Courson asked me to serve after the Senator from Richland, Senator Lourie, was exiting. And obviously I'm hoping that you will keep a listening ear as this discussion goes forward. There are a lot of things, a lot of programs, that they are doing that are wonderful. Senator from Cherokee, you and I worked on the Read to Succeed bill to look at young children and make sure they are ready for school. Senator from Florence, Senator Leatherman, you have worked for early education for all of your career. And so I would ask that we move forward and try to get it right this time. Let's try to not break something that isn't broken. Obviously we had an LAC report and have improved. So I'd invite all of you, as many as would like to, to please go ahead and sign onto this reauthorization. I'd ask you to do so at the appropriate time."

Both bills have been assigned, per standard protocol, to their chamber's respective **Education Committee**, where deliberations related to passage will begin.

Please note also that the Public Education and Special Schools Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee **adopted a reauthorization proviso** on Tuesday afternoon. This short proviso, designed to ensure continuity of

operations in the event First Steps is not reauthorized via stand-alone legislation, would simply reauthorize First Steps for the duration of FY17.

We will provide additional updates as they become available.

I look forward to our upcoming regional meetings and invite you to contact me any time.

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Julia-Ellen Davis  
Interim Director  
SC First Steps  
803-360-8792 (c)

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