

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 11/5/2014 10:09:28 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: state employee salaries

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Message:

I am a 35 year old female with a Masters degree in Counseling and 8 years of experience working for the state of South Carolina assisting individuals with disabilities return to competitive employment so that they no longer require Government assistance. While I get much intrinsic satisfaction in doing my job and seeing my clients succeed, I earn an annual salary of \$38,000 with take home pay just over \$26,000 a year. With over \$60,000 in student loan debt, this salary barely makes the education worth the expense. I was taught in school that if I worked hard and got a degree, I could earn a decent living. After 8 years and a cumulative pay increase of \$4,000 during my tenure, I have come to realize that my job is not one of value.

It would appear that many politicians do not believe that state employees work or pay taxes, when in fact we are those in the trenches serving the citizens of our great state.

I would like the State House to consider better student loan forgiveness programs for government workers and incremental pay increases based on years of service similar to those programs offered to teachers. I would also like to request that pay inequality between males and females performing the same job be examined in great detail.

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider my concerns.

Sincerely,

Misti Smith