

March 12, 2016

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

Dear Governor Haley:

I recently had the opportunity to view the Independent Lens documentary *Wilhemina's War* featuring the problems faced by African American women in rural South Carolina who have become infected by the HIV virus through heterosexual contact. I was surprised to learn this is the largest HIV population in the United States.

I traveled through southern states on church missions trips back in the late 1950's and saw many rundown shanties. Here we are two generations later since the Civil Rights movement and it seems conditions and attitudes toward the rural areas of black communities has seen little change. Did I get the wrong impression?

The struggles of Wilhemina's granddaughter who was born with HIV is heartbreaking. I checked online and South Carolina has very stringent abortion laws and HIV education doesn't seem to be very high on the list of priorities. Now the Zika virus is coming to further plague this population.

As a resident of Kansas which has been financially run into the ground by a reckless Republican governor and conservative legislature, I can sympathize with the lack of infrastructure to help this population. The population hit especially hard by the cuts in Kansas is the mentally ill.

I watched President Obama's State of the Union Address and the Republican rebuttal which you gave. I thought you were an attractive and an articulate spokesperson for Republicans even if I didn't agree with everything that was in your speech.

Now, after seeing *Wilhemina's War* I understand why your choice as the Republican's spokesperson must have been particularly galling to President Obama. Talk about sticking in the knife and twisting it!

I have enclosed an article from The Kansas City Star, March 2, 2016, "Lifted from poverty, women savor a gala." This is a good story of a group of entrepreneurs who are growing their businesses in Kansas City and have had the courage to hire women who many businesses wouldn't have even considered hiring. They have combined the Republican goal of creating jobs and at the same time have helped at least a few women turn their life in poverty around. We need more people to think outside the box.

Sincerely,



Nathalie Crew

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