

From: Betty Houbion
Sent: 5/20/2015 1:24:02 PM
To: LeMoine, Leigh; Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: TO: GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY: Fw: TO: Dear Mr. Speaker:
Domestic Violence / Intimate Partner Violence Legislation

Dear Governor Haley:
Below is my letter to the House Speaker, with the Zonta Clubs of South Carolina Position Paper on Domestic Violence attached. I have yet to hear from Speaker Lucas. I see, however, that S.003 has been recalled.

Our seven Zonta Clubs have been encouraged to join your Councils, which I see met as whole yesterday. We address domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other acts of violence against women and girls, most intensely during Zonta International's Zonta says No! to Violence Against Women and Girls Campaign and the U.N. 16 Days of Activism.

We appreciate all that you are doing to address domestic violence, and look forward to the day when South Carolina is ranked Zero, the Best at the Best in the nation.

Bless you. Gratefully yours,
In service and advocacy,
Betty J. Houbion
Zonta Club of Myrtle Beach Advocacy Chair
Zonta District 11 Advocacy Chair
Zonta Foundation of Myrtle Beach Vice President
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On Friday, May 15, 2015 11:58 AM, Betty Houbion <bhoubion@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We need the House to pass the solid domestic violence bills introduced this session. I'm not telling you what you don't already know. I would be remiss,

however, if I didn't make this request.

We must not ignore the fact that South Carolina is ranked 2nd for murder by domestic violence in the nation, down from 1, up from 7, never out of the ten of the worst States for domestic violence. We now have a new ranking: Most dangerous State in the nation. We, unfortunately, are known as the Best at the Worst.

Because of this reputation, I have had top people in DC and elsewhere, tell me: Good luck! and not in such polite words. That, in and of itself, is an act of violence, and it hurts. I'm proud of South Carolinians. At one time, our State Constitution was one of the most innovative. The Victim Rights Amendment is one of those innovations, and the 2012 anti-human trafficking law is at the top. So, why must I be ashamed of saying that I live here? Why must women and children live in fear? Why must we live broken? Domestic violence or intimate partner violence is not a tradition of Southern hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, please, move the House to pass such bills as S.003 unamended, H.3034-Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Act, and H.3433-Domestic Violence Reform Act. The other bills are important, but these bills are ready to be brought to the House.

As a member of Zonta, I support the attached SC Zonta Club Position Paper on Domestic Violence. It delineates the problem, challenges and solutions specific to South Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration. South Carolina can take the lead on this issue, if only it would.

Sincerely yours,
Betty Houbion

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