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**To:** Rick ReamesRick.Reames@dor.sc.gov

Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov

Patel, SwatiSwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov

**CC:** Shane Masseyasmlaw30@bellsouth.net

**Date:** 11/17/2016 9:19:06 AM

**Subject:** Draft of school-choice bill

**Attachments:** senate -- school choice bill.docx

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Rick, Katherine and Swati:

Attached is a rough draft of the school-choice bill I briefly discussed with Rick and Katherine yesterday, using the existing exceptional-needs proviso as a point of departure. Here's what's been struck, revised and/or added in this draft:

- \*\* The current \$2 million dollar direct-tax credit that parents can receive has been deleted
- \*\* The exceptional-needs credit and scholarship amount has been increased from \$10 million to \$25 million
- \*\* A new \$25 million credit and scholarship for "disadvantaged children" has been added
- \*\* The date references have been changed from a fiscal year to a calendar year

Rick, the DOR now has a few months' experience housing the existing program and I want your input on how things might be improved operationally. This email confirms that you and I are meeting at 9:45 am next Monday to discuss the bill.

Katherine and Swati, I want this bill to conform with what Gov. Haley has in mind regarding a school-choice initiative. I have no pride of authorship and welcome your comments, too. Katherine, I would like to meet with you and the governor's policy people next Monday at 11 am. Please let me know if that works.

I am meeting with Sen. Leatherman and his finance staffers at noon on Monday to get their input and (hopefully) support.

I am copying Shane Massey with this email and soliciting his comments, too, as this initiative might be something the Senate GOP caucus wants to make a priority.

Tom