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**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 7/24/2014 12:12:35 PM  
**Subject:** Unemployment, DSS Hearings, and Common Core -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- July 1 to July 23, 2014

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**Unemployment, DSS Hearings, and Common Core -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- July 1 to July 23, 2014**

I hope that you and your family are enjoying your summer. The State Senate is out of session until January 2015. One of my goals as your state senator is that you find this update helpful and informative. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for reading and for allowing me to serve our District!

**State Government News and Information**

**Unemployment Rate Decline** : South Carolina led the nation in June with the largest 12 month decrease in the state's jobless rate according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Our state's unemployment rate was 5.3% in June -- down 2.5% from June 2013. This decrease was the largest drop over the 12 months period of any of the 50 states.

**DSS Oversight Hearings Continue** : Yesterday, the DSS Oversight Subcommittee which I chair held another hearing in Columbia. The subcommittee is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly on how best to improve child protective services and foster care services in our state. We will continue meeting into the Fall and our goal is to have a report and recommendations by early January. To learn more about yesterday's hearing, go [here](#). I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

**Common Core -- FAQ and Survey** : In May, legislation was enacted that removes South Carolina from Common Core State Standards with the math and english/language arts standards remaining in place for one more academic year. During that time, the State Department of Education is required to develop new, state-based K-12 standards and to have those standards implemented statewide for the 2015-2016 school year. The State Dept. of Education has established a

Frequently Asked Questions web page which can be seen [here](#). In addition, the current english standards can be seen [here](#) and math standards can be seen [here](#). Interested constituents are encouraged to comment on specific current state standards in math and language arts by completing a survey located [here](#). The survey results will be used as part of the process of developing state specific content standards.

**Teens and Texting** : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law goes into effect on December 7. Between June 9 and December 6, law enforcement may issue warning tickets. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Dept. of Commerce Economic Outlook** : To see the July 2014 economic outlook for the state, go [here](#).

**Report VA Problems Directly to Congress** : Second Congressional District Congressman Joe Wilson has requested input from veterans and healthcare providers from South Carolina as to the Veterans Administrations problems and constructive input for addressing those problems. To do so, go [here](#).

### **News of Local Interest**

**Faith Magazine article** : The current issue of *Faith Magazine* has an article about my public service and faith which can be seen [here](#).

**Prostate Cancer**: September is prostate cancer awareness month. Early diagnosis is critical for successful treatment. The PSA blood test can be used to detect prostate cancer much earlier than it can be detected without screening. All men are welcome to have a free PSA blood test at the Cancer Care Institute of Carolina in Aiken. For more information, call the Institute at [641-7850](tel:641-7850).

**Small Business Development Centers** : Seventeen Small Business Development Centers located across the state (including one here in Aiken) offer individual, confidential consulting at no cost. The annual report can be seen [here](#). To contact the local Aiken office, call [641-3646](tel:641-3646) or email at [sbdc@usca.edu](mailto:sbdc@usca.edu).

**Frequency of Email Updates** : Because the legislature is out of session, my legislative updates will not be sent as frequently as they have been since January of this year. However, I will strive to provide at least a couple of updates per month over the summer into the fall.

**End of Session Town Meetings** : I plan to hold end of session town meetings in the district. Based on constituent requests, I will hold those after the summer vacation season ends. The dates, times, and locations will be provided in the future email updates.

**Grass Cutting in the SCDOT Right of Way** : Grass is growing in right of ways



around our district. DOT has staff cutting the grass. If you are aware of an area where high grass is obstructing vision for drivers as they enter or exit certain roads in our County, please call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or let me know and I will pass on the information.

**City of Aiken Litter Hotline** : The City of Aiken now has a litter hotline. If you see litter on city property or streets that needs picking up, call the Hotline at [502-4999](tel:502-4999). The City will dispatch a litter crew to the area.

### **Constituent Information**

**Legislative Email Updates** : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): [bill@billhixon.com](mailto:bill@billhixon.com)
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): [bill@taylorscheuse.com](mailto:bill@taylorscheuse.com)
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): [dwells29801@gmail.com](mailto:dwells29801@gmail.com)

**Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information** : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [608-9747](tel:608-9747).

**Speaking with Groups Around the District** : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

**Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government** : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

**Facebook** : I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

**Tom Young’s Website** : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

**Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce** : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go to <http://sccommerce.com/south-carolina-business-network>.

**Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan** : South Carolina’s 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go to <http://www.FutureScholar.com/parents>.

**Donate Life** : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South

Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or at [DonateLifeSC.org](http://DonateLifeSC.org).

**Child Passenger Safety** : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go to <http://www.bucklebuddiessc.org/>. The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

**Request a Flag** : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com). Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

**State House Tours** : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430. If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you.

**Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization** : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, visit <http://www.tbredcountry.org>.

**Email Updates** : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

**Road Issues** : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com) or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young  
649-0000 (o)  
215-3631 (cell)

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| Paid for by Tom Young for Senate |
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This message was sent to katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov from:

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