

Teandra K. White
111 University Village Dr.
Orangeburg, SC 29115

March 3, 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley:

My name is Teandra Katrell White and I am a senior Early Childhood Education major here at the distinguished South Carolina State University. Over the past few weeks, devastating stories of SC State has been headlined nationally, due to the sizeable amount of debt that the institution is currently facing. As a concerned student, I am only asking that you try to see things from "our" point of view.

Since February 2015, there have been concerns about the financial state of South Carolina State University. Just like any other institution we are constantly being faced with problems, but I honestly do not believe that closing the doors of SC State, the only HBCU in the state of South Carolina, will solve these issues. As I read the daily newspaper and watch the news, I become frustrated that we are the only institution of higher learning that the government loans money to for academics, while other colleges and universities receive grants for athletic fields and other various activities. Instead of closing this prestigious university, forcing faculty and staff members to relocate, and causing uproar in this wonderful community of students, I believe that we should exhaust every possible outlet, and even then closing should not be an option. Not only will the faculty, staff and students become uprooted and outraged, but also there is so much historical value at this institution. It bothers me to know that South Carolina House of Representatives is willing to take something that is so essential to our well being away from us. I do not believe that we should be deprived of an education when this is the only way that we can advance in today's society. Not only will closing the doors become detrimental to current students, but also it can diminish the degrees of thousands of alumni. Lastly, I believe that closing this institution would hurt the economic status of Orangeburg County. Statistics has shown that SC State has an immense \$187.4 million economic impact on the state and local economy. Closing this school would result in a percentage of local businesses losing money, eventually forcing them to close as well.

Many people see college as just an institution for higher learning, but SC State is more than that to us, it is a community away from home. On a daily basis, while walking to class, I am convinced that if I had chosen any other institution of higher learning, I would not feel at home. Although I am close to graduating, there is still time left to exercise every possible funding source to keep SC State open. In 1896, South Carolina State College believed in "providing affordable and accessible quality baccalaureate programs" and preparing "highly skilled, competent, and socially aware graduates." although this mission cannot be fulfilled if the doors are closed.

"I believe in South Carolina State University today, South Carolina State University tomorrow, South Carolina State University forever"

Sincerely,



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