

March 17, 2015

Greetings Governor Haley,

I am Nicholas Sykes, a Charleston native and 3rd year pharmacy student at the South Carolina College of Pharmacy at MUSC, and I am excited to share with you a fundraising opportunity for education. In my first year of pharmacy school, I was involved with developing two products for raising money for class functions. One of these involved the creation of the logo which you can see on the provided stickers. We sold blankets and sweatpants to students of the College with a great response to the logo design. As a creative person with an entrepreneurial spirit, I wondered if I could carry this further and possibly raise money for other purposes.

I went to public schools here in Charleston from first to eighth grade. I had my share of difficulty from being picked on to feeling lost in a classroom too big for the teachers to handle. It is no secret that South Carolina struggles with education. As graduation draws nearer I find myself considering what I can do to give back to the education system. I would like to offer to provide schools with stickers like the ones enclosed, with the name of the school printed on them, to be sold to students and their families on campus and at school functions. The profits would support their respective schools and give the students and their families a source of pride in their schools.

My stepmother is a school teacher at Liberty Hill Academy in North Charleston. I asked her to take some stickers to her school to gauge interest in the product. My idea for fundraising stemmed from her principal's response: I was asked to work on a custom design for the school, which was recently named a "Cool School". I was delighted by this response and this inspired me to write you today. This product has the potential to raise thousands of dollars statewide for a variety of reasons. The "Euro Oval" design is wildly popular, and the South Carolina flag superimposed over the "SC" is a fresh design not seen before. As I mentioned there has already been a great response to the design, and even folks from other states praise its thoughtfulness.

It would be incredibly satisfying just seeing my product on cars, trucks and vans in the State and knowing I contributed to that child's education in some way. I would thus expect minimal compensation, perhaps as little as 10% of the proceeds. I have already put my own time and money into producing and ordering this first small batch of stickers in hopes that it will be well received. I realize that I have used the official South Carolina flag somewhat unofficially, but I hope that reaching out to you in this manner makes my selfless intentions clear. I'm not just selling another bumper sticker at a gift shop, I want to do something more purposeful!

Please find it in your heart to consider this opportunity. I'm sure this is not the first of its kind but I must again be clear that I am a creative, compassionate and resourceful person (hence my choice of a career in pharmacy). I truly believe that anything is possible with the right amount of effort and support. I am happy to produce potential pricing schemes and be a part of distributing the stickers around the state. I would be delighted to go to school functions where I can meet the students and families buying the product. I feel education is the most important public service there is and we have a great need to support it in our State.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

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