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Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC, 29201

Dear Honorable Nikki R. Haley

I am writing to you in hopes of soliciting your assistance in completing my education at The Citadel, The military College of South Carolina. As an African American female, I have always been told that attending The Citadel would be one of the most challenging things I could undertake. However, my love of country and desire to serve, along with my expectation of being a successful cadet, I always remained undeterred. I expected to graduate this May and begin my Army career; as a senior I was looking forward to my graduation. In September 2014, I was called to an informal board meeting with members of the Citadel's Army ROTC Board to discuss "a possible discrepancy in some paper work" signed in the summer of 2014 while I was attending ROTC camp for commissioning students. When questioned about said paperwork, I honestly had no recollection of what the Board might be referencing; as being a cadet and in Army ROTC, I deal with paperwork on a regular basis. Nearly two months later, in November 2014, I was notified that I was being accused of an "honor violation" because I had "lied". As a Citadel cadet, and a senior, I am very well aware that, "a Cadet does not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do", and I would never put my education or my military career in such a precarious position by doing so. On December 4, 2014, without legal representation (a huge mistake in hindsight) and with the knowledge that I did not intentionally "lie" about anything, I was found by the Citadel's Honor Court to be in violation of the Honor Code. It was at this point I was given the option of withdrawing from The Citadel or proceeding with an appeal process. With my graduation and future military career as an Army officer in jeopardy, I readily agreed to an appeal for which legal representation was recommended. I was certainly not willing to give up four months prior to my expected graduation, as my Army officer career and my education were and remain my top priority.

After seeking legal counsel in January 2015, I was informed that the Army ROTC Department had submitted "new evidence" and I was required to make a decision as to whether to have the Board "cast out" the new evidence for "irrelevance", or proceed with the case with the new

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“evidence”, thereby delaying my hearing even longer. Such antics on the part of the Citadel’s Army ROTC program caused greater confusion and delays. In this atmosphere of confusion, the Review Board refused to rule in my favor and the appeal was denied on February 5, 2015, just 93 days shy of my graduation date. I was asked to pack my belongings and leave the institution I had so proudly represented and studied at for almost four years.

As a cadet and Army ROTC member, I was well aware of the challenges, but I never expected to be so flagrantly discriminated against in this way. I believe the process and the system currently in place at The Citadel is seriously flawed and broken, and because of this my educational and financial future, my family’s future, and my military career are now in jeopardy. I was supposed to be in the Top 50 African American women to graduate from The Citadel. I believe someone should take a stance on the injustices, prejudices, and racism I have experienced through this very flawed process. My goal continues to be a Citadel Graduate and Military Officer and I am reaching out to you in a final attempt to make that happen. I hope that I can count on you for your support and assistance.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. If you would like any additional information, or would like to speak to me in person, I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience. I have included my contact information at the top of this letter.

Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,

Jalonna A. Robinson