

1116 Watsonia Drive
Aiken, SC 29803
March 9, 2016

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

RE: Bill H3794-Amending - Section 56-1-210 and Section 56-1-220 Code of Laws of South Carolina
Regarding Age Discrimination

Good Morning Ms. Haley:

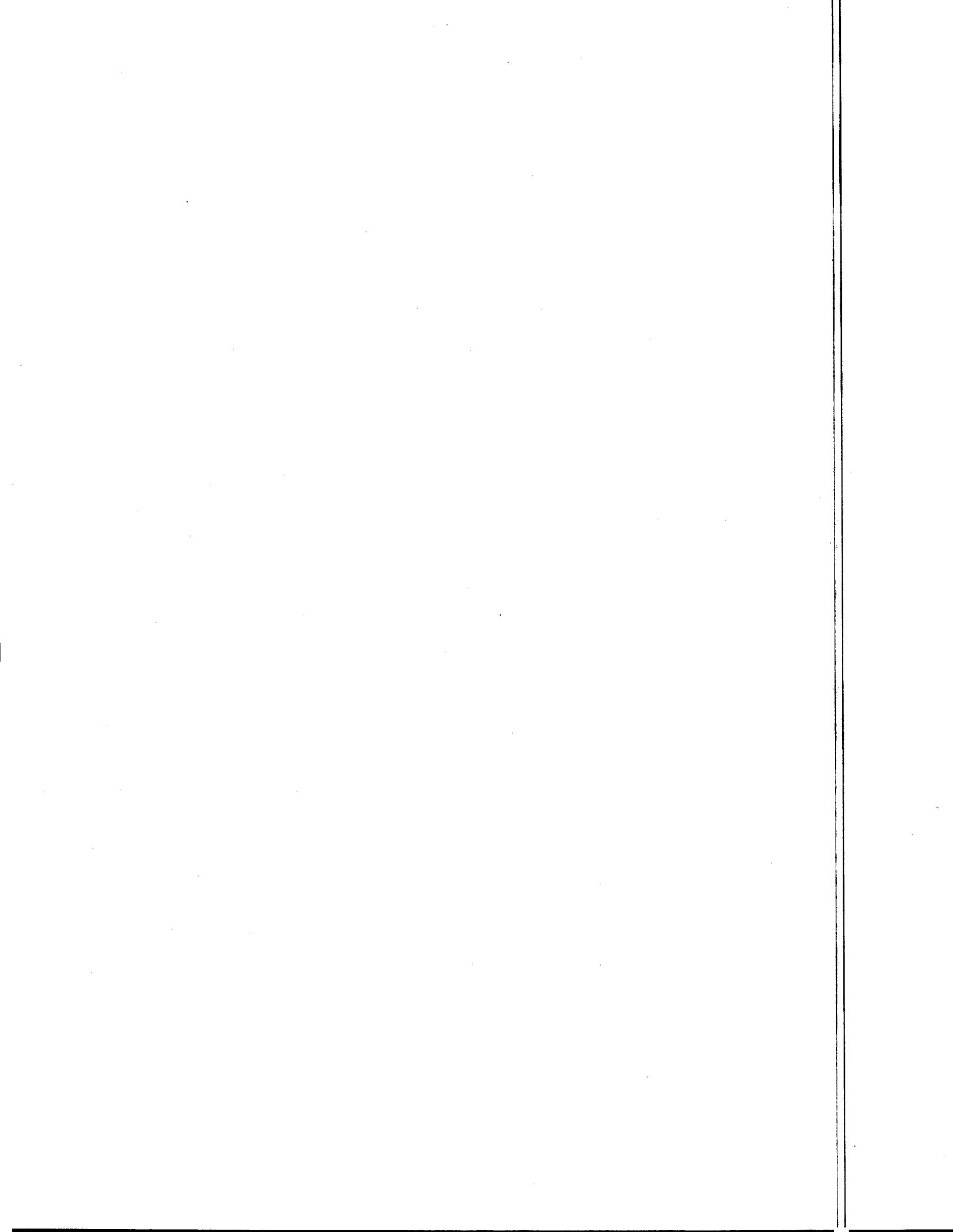
My husband, Tom, and I have been long time supporters of yours, before you were Governor and now. I have included a picture of us with you at the reception given in your honor for Republican nominee for Governor at the home of Melissa and Jim Oremus in "The Farmstead". I am now asking for your support regarding Bill H3794 which is stalled in the Senate Transportation Committee.

Bill H3794 was introduced last session in the House and has been stalled in the Senate. Therefore, Senator Tom Young asked to have a subcommittee hearing. Yesterday, March 8, Bill H3794 was heard by a Subcommittee of Transportation (hearing). The subcommittee claimed they did not understand Bill H3794 and needed to investigate it. To avoid Bill H3794 from being stalled and having to reintroduce another bill in its place next session, I am asking for your assistance.

I have included in the packet the speech I would have made to the Subcommittee of Transportation in support of Bill H3794 if I received the e-mail of the rescheduling of the meeting, a copy of the proposed bill, a copy of a letter written to me in response to my concern of discrimination against people over 65 years of age or older, a copy of Section 56-1-210 and 56-1-210 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina with highlighted bias areas and copies of statistical vision information. Below I have outlined the sections that are discriminatory against people sixty-five years of age or older which should be removed. I am amazed, in this day and age, these sections are allowed to remain.

Section 56-1-210 is bias against people 65 years of age or older. "When a person who is ~~sixty-five~~ **sixty-five years of age or older renews his license, the license shall expire five years from the date it was issued.**"

If 65 years of age and older are limited to a five year license than why not everyone? This section is discriminatory.



Bill H3794

Section 56-1-220 is bias against people 65 years of age or older. "If a licensee is less than sixty-five years of age, his license expires on his birth date on the fifth calendar year in which it is issued, and his license is renewed for an additional five years by mail or electronically. If a licensee is sixty-five years of age or older and his license expires on his birth date on the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued, then he may renew his license by mail for an additional five years upon submission of a certificate of vision examination from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state."

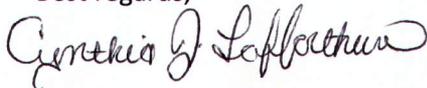
Section 56-1-220 clearly is related to vision. **VISION IS NOT DETERMINED BY AGE.** With medical advances in ophthalmology we have been blessed with better eyesight no matter what the age.

Turning 65 years of age does not mean vision problems "**Magically**" appear or that persons 65 years of age or older have more vision problems than any younger age group.

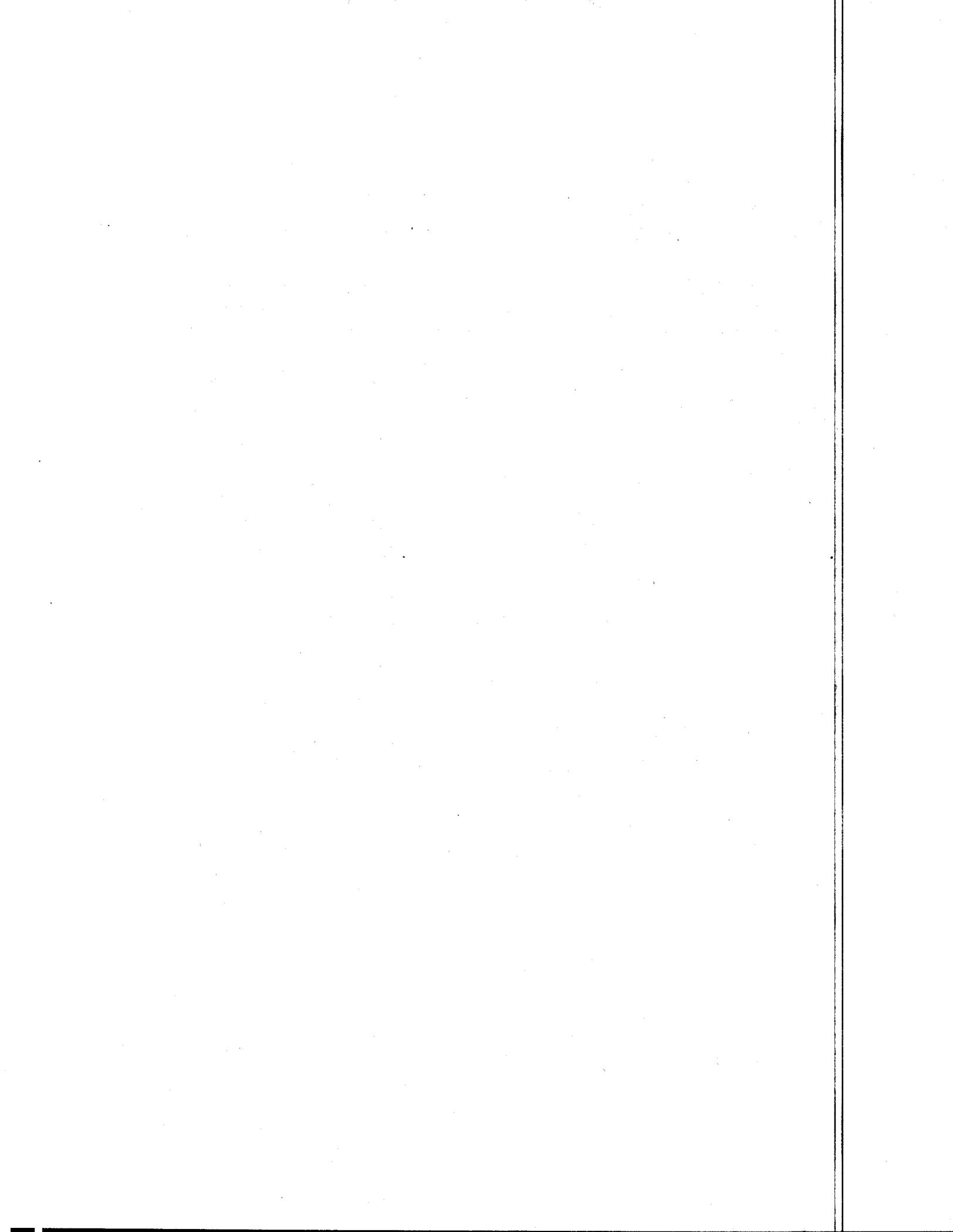
Because Section 56-1-210 and Section 56-1-220 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina singles out persons 65 years and older, I respectfully ask this Bill be reviewed and passed to amend the bias segments.

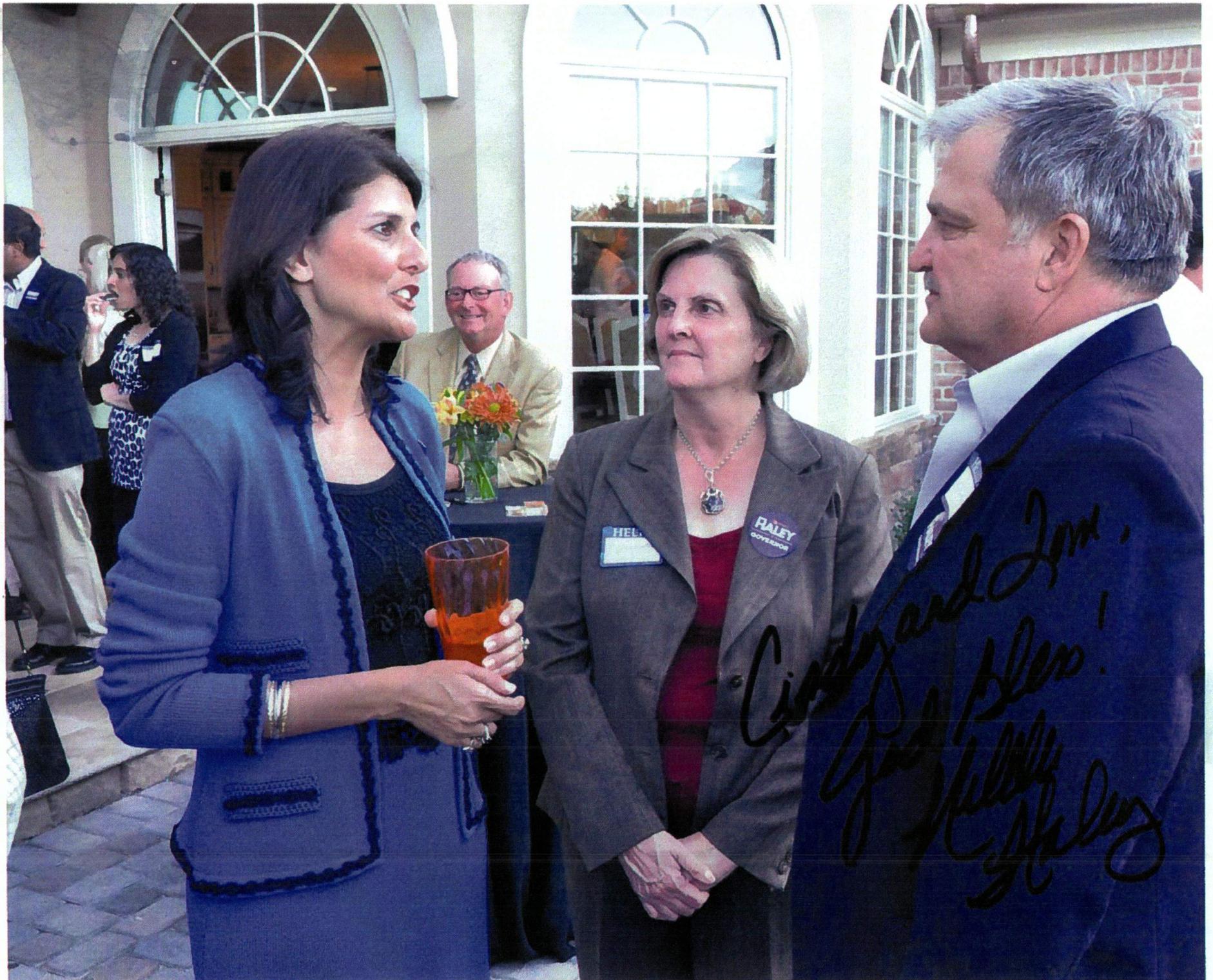
If you need further information upon review, please contact me at E-mail:cjlaffort@yahoo.com or Phone: (803)617-9946. I look forward to hearing from you.

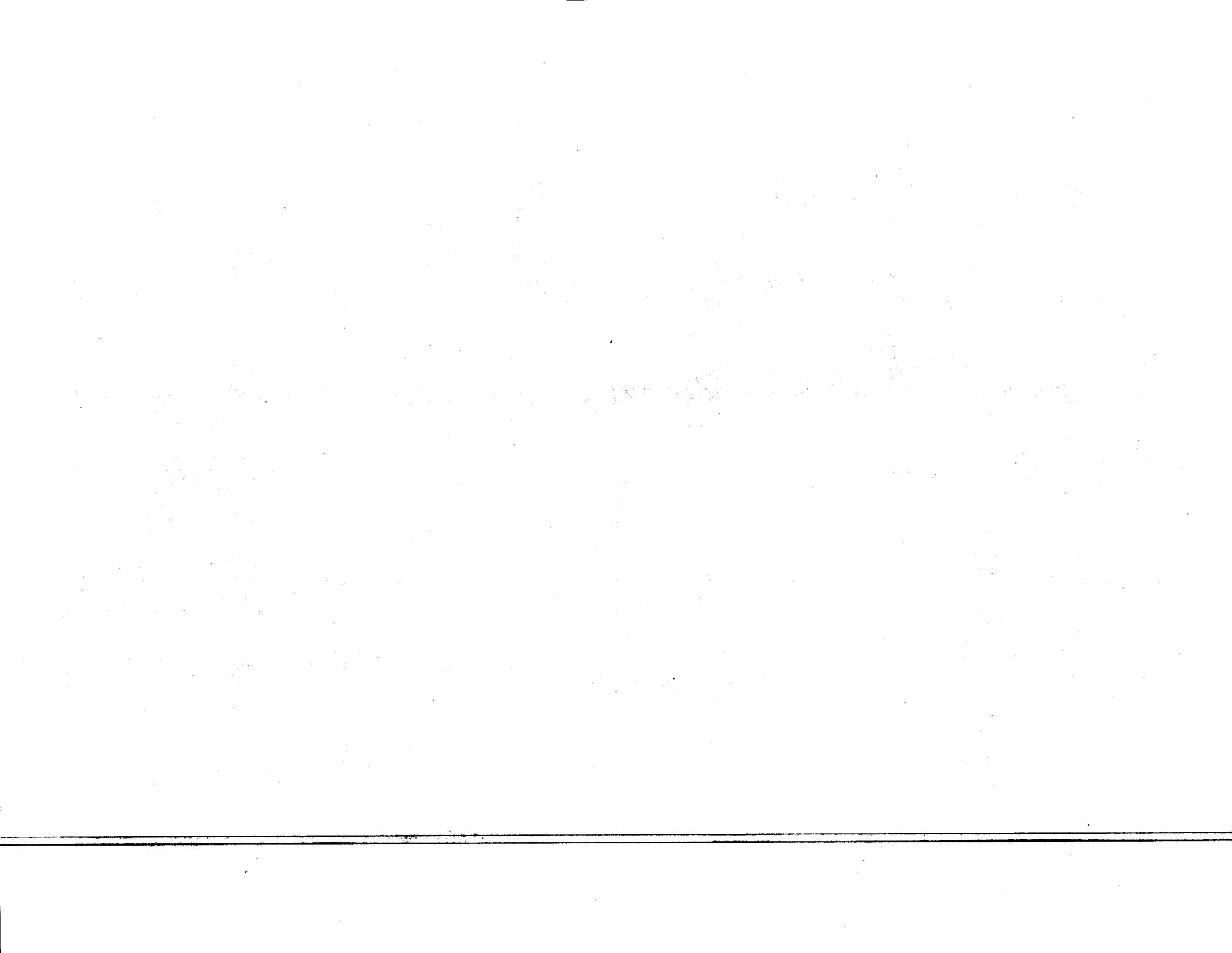
Best regards,



Cynthia J. Lafforthun









You are invited to a reception honoring

NIKKI HALEY

Republican nominee for Governor

Hosted by:

Nancy and Don Cerra
Melissa and Jim Oremus
Mr. and Mrs. Neel Shah
Mr. and Mrs. Ramesh Shah

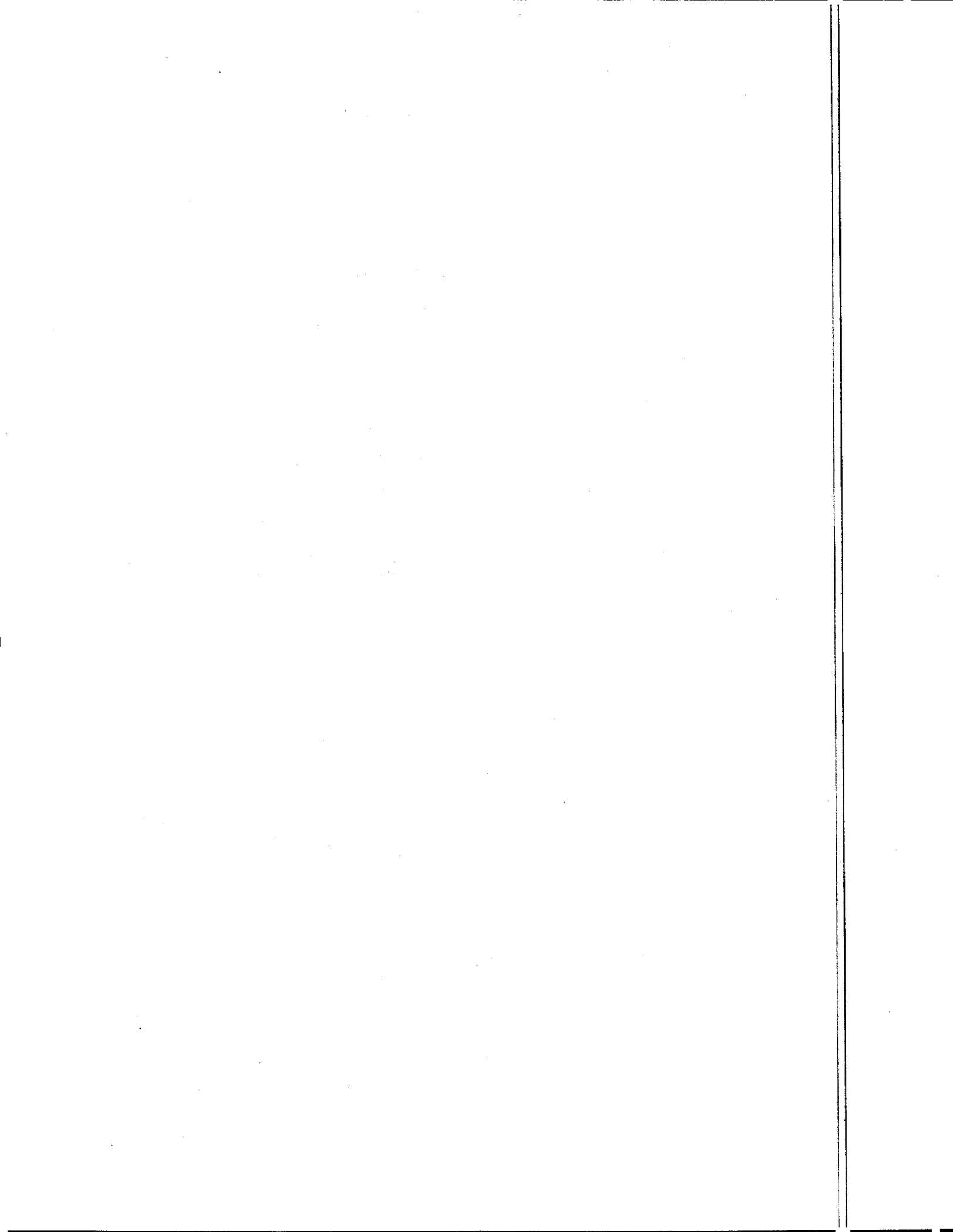
Thursday, October 7th
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

At the home of Melissa and Jim Oremus in
"The Farmstead"
5235 Farmstead Drive
Aiken, South Carolina

RSVP via enclosure or via email
to Nancy Cerra at nancy@nancycerra.com

*Directions: Silver Bluff Road south.
Right on Herndon Dairy Road.
Travel 1.6 miles and turn right into "The Farmstead."
Home on left.*

Paid for by Nikki Haley for Governor





*The honor of your presence is requested
at the ceremonies attending the Inauguration of*

Nicki Randolph Staley

*as
Governor of South Carolina*

and

James Kenneth Hix

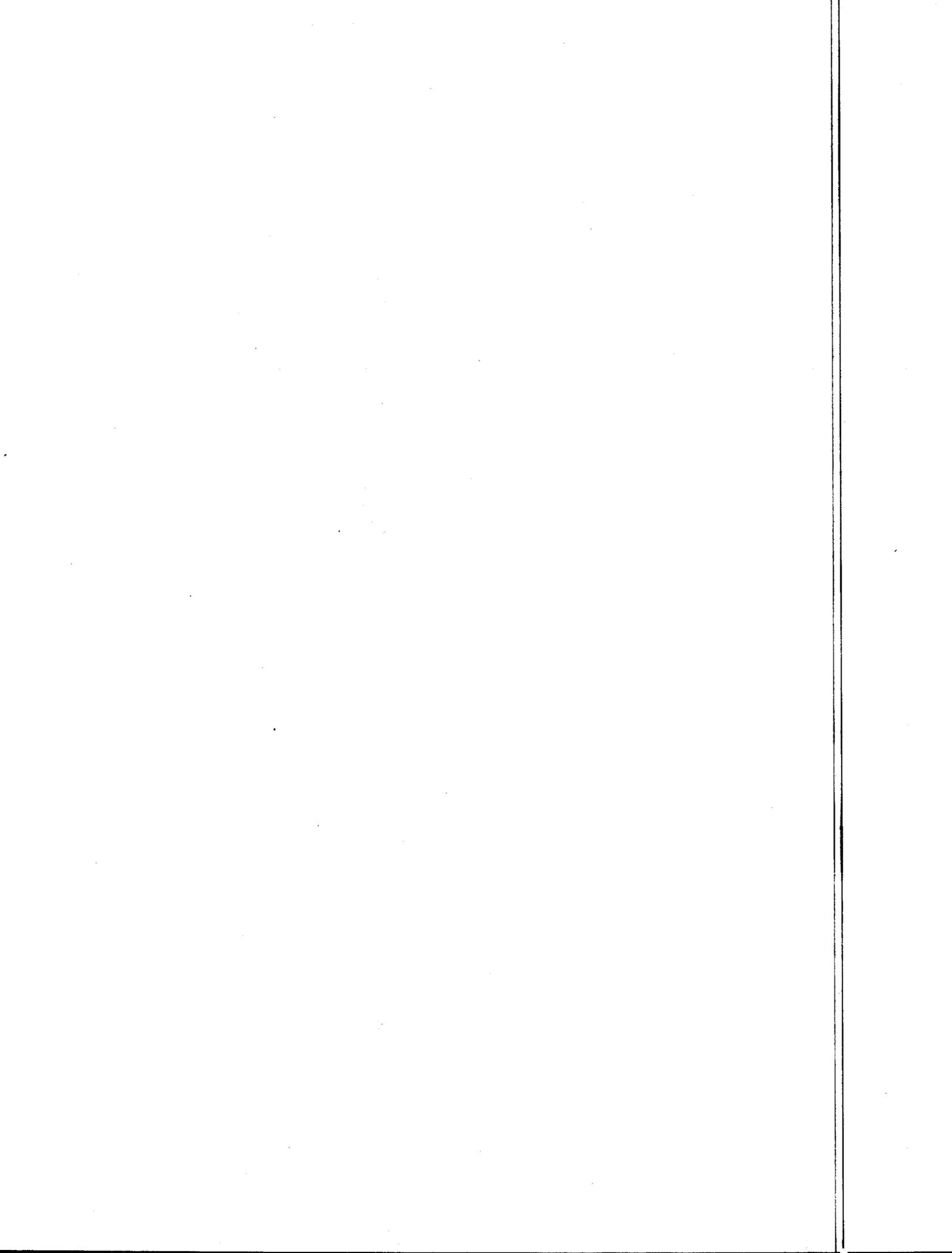
*as
Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina*

On Wednesday, the twelfth of January

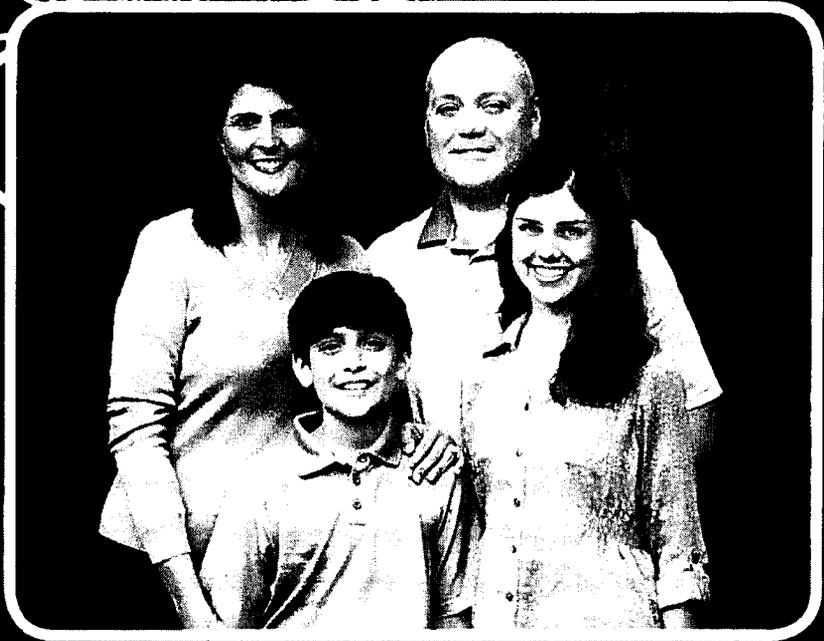
Two thousand and seven

at eleven o'clock in the morning

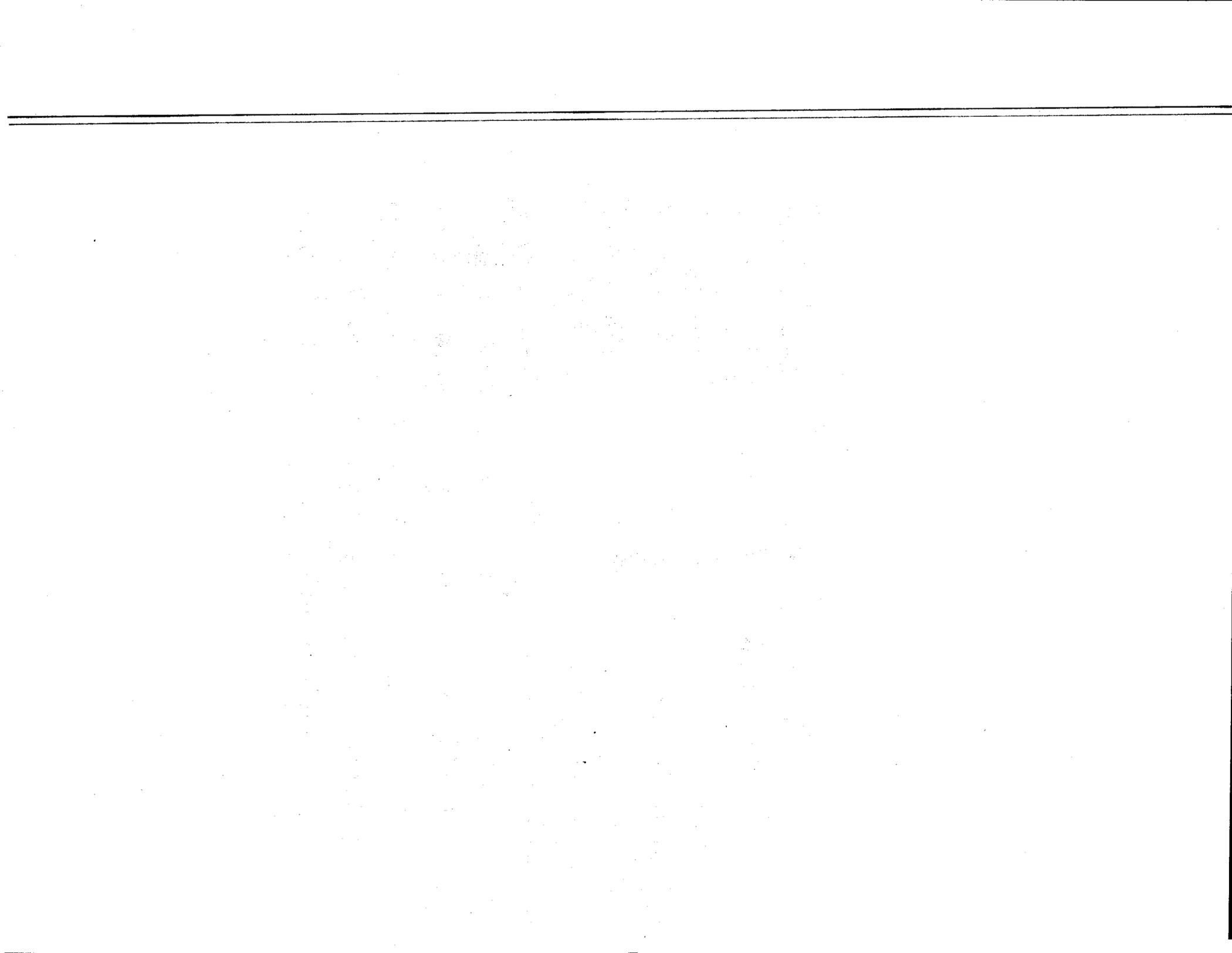
in the City of Columbia



2012



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



My name is Cynthia Lafforthun and I live in Aiken, SC. I am here today to address Bill H 3794. This bill is to amend Code of Laws of South Carolina Section 56-1-210 so as to delete "When a person who is sixty-five years of age or older renews his license, the license shall expire five years from the date it is issued."

And Section 56-1-220 relating to vision screenings so as to delete " a licensee who is sixty-five years of age or older is allowed to obtain a driver's license that is valid for five years."

I was made aware of Section 56-1-210 and Section 56-1-220 when I received a notice of renewal for my driver's license in the mail. My license needed to be renewed by March 20th, my birthday, when I would turn 65. The notice stated I could renew my license for five years through the mail.

I figured, since Motor Vehicle was only a few miles away, I would renew my license at Motor Vehicle for 10 years. So, I went directly to Motor Vehicle before my birthday. While I was renewing my license, I mentioned the notice I had received in the mail regarding the renewal of my license for five years. The Motor Vehicle Customer Service representative told me there was a section of the South Carolina Code of Laws that states, "When a person reaches 65 years of age, license renewal is for five years only. Since my birthday was a few weeks away, I was told I was lucky and could renew my license for ten years because I had not yet turned 65 years of age yet." ***Thank Goodness it has always been in my nature to Always Be Early, Never Late.*** At the time, I remember thinking this is unbelievable such a law exists in this day and age that singles out persons 65 years and older. I asked what could I do to find out more about the law? I was given an AD-800C Customer Complaint Form to fill out and send to the SCDMV Office of Inspector General, PO Box 1498, Blythewood, SC 29016 which I did on January 19, 2015. I was sent a reply dated January 28, 2015 thanking me for my letter regarding my concern of driver's license expirations for persons sixty-five years of age or older. It went on to say, "Please be aware **it is not our policy or procedure to single out or discriminate against any customer regardless of their age.** As a driver's license issuing agency we must adhere to the statute outlined in Section 56-1-210 of the South Carolina Code of law. Thank you for voicing your concerns regarding this matter. I apologize that we are unable to be of assistance, but trust you will understand the department's position. Signed Annie Phelps, Director, Office of Procedures & Compliance.

I then wrote to Representative Bill Taylor, Congressman Joe Wilson and Senator Tom Young expressing my concern regarding Section 56-1-210 and Section 56-1-220, the same concern I am expressing here today. Senator Tom Young has been my Champion, guidance and support, assisting me every step of the way to promote Bill H 3794.

Section 56-1-220 was written relating to vision screenings which I have done some research on.

I am here to tell you **VISION IS NOT DETERMINED BY AGE.**

During my ophthalmic research through the American Academy of Ophthalmology and various websites, I would like to share some facts I have discovered:

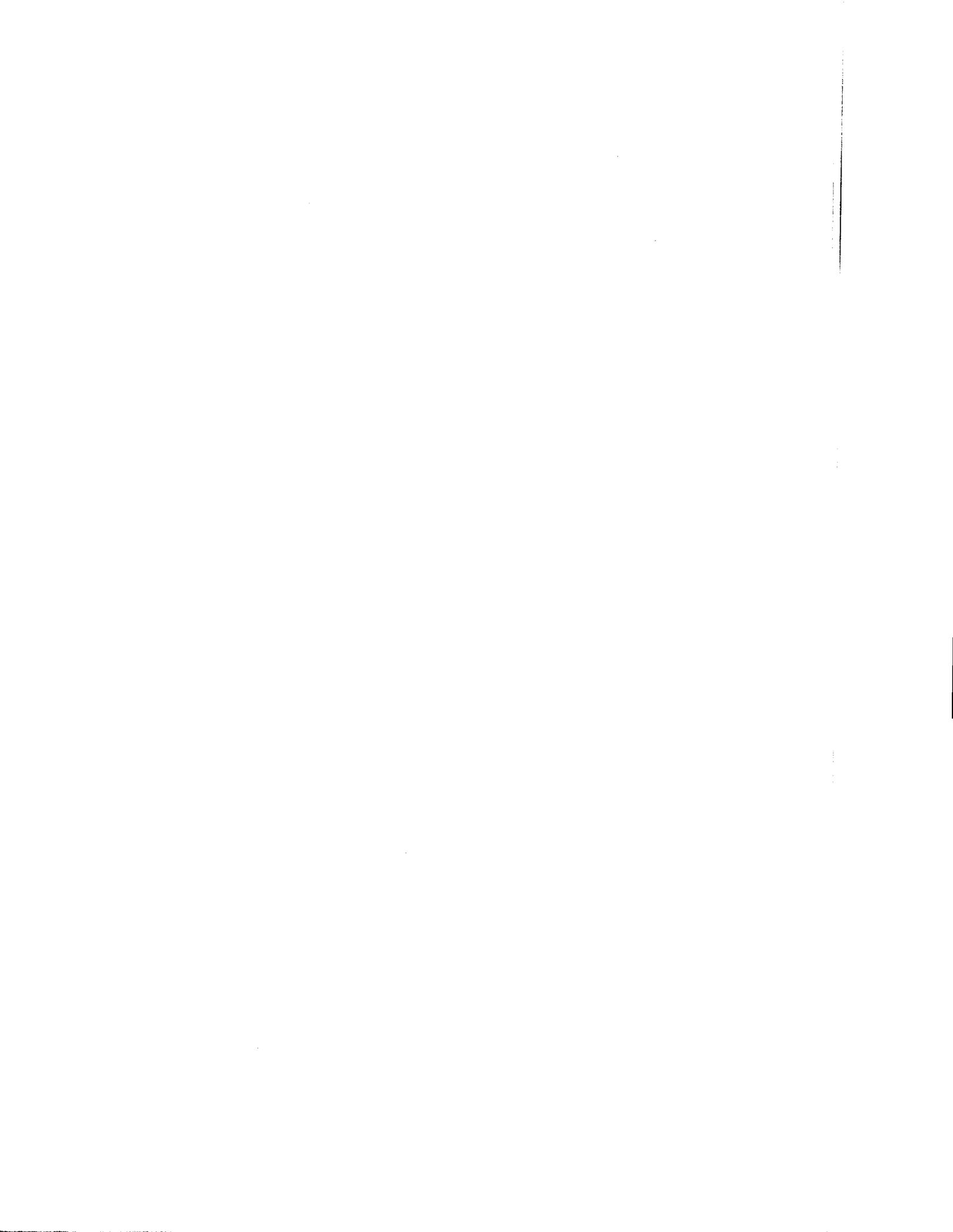
- Cataracts are not confined to older people as many think. Cataracts affect more than 24 million Americans age 40 and older. In some cases, people can be born with cataracts.
- Astigmatism often occurs early in life between the ages of 5 to 17. This vision problem occurs in about 1 to 3 people.
- Hyperopia (farsightedness) is a common vision problem which affects about a fourth of the population.
- Myopia (nearsightedness) is the most common vision problem. Doctors feel myopia is caused by eye fatigue from computer use and other near vision tasks, coupled with a genetic predisposition. According to statistics almost 42% of the population, from ages 12 to 54 are affected.

As I stated before, **VISION IS NOT DETERMINED BY AGE. "NO EYE IS PERFECT NO MATTER WHAT AGE."**

With medical advances in ophthalmology we have been blessed with better eyesight no matter what the age. Take my husband for example. He is 67 and has 20-20 vision. I also have a 94-year-old aunt who had her cataracts removed a few years ago and sees better now than when she was 40.

Turning 65 years of age does not mean vision problems "Magically" appear or that persons 65 years of age or older have more vision problems than any younger age group.

Because Section 56-1-210 and Section 56-1-220 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina singles out persons 65 years and older, **I respectfully ask this subcommittee to support and assist in passing Bill H 3794 which will amend the bias segments. Thank you for your time.**



South Carolina Legislature

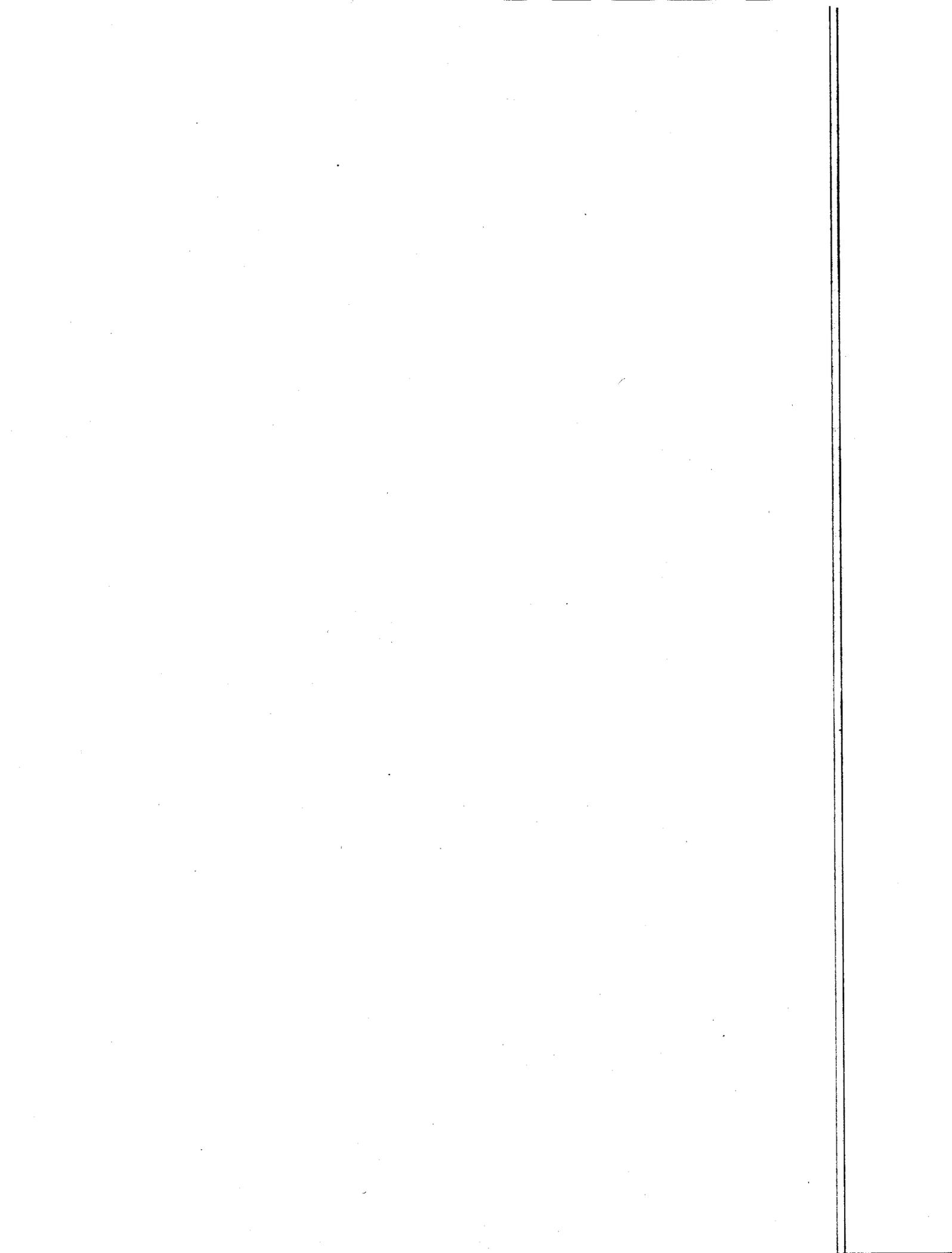
February 23, 2016, 02:40:15 pm

Session 121 - (2015-2016)

H 3794 General Bill, By Forrester, Burns, Sottile, Spires, V.S. Moss, Gambrell, Bales, Kennedy, Tallon, Allison, Bedingfield, Daning, Henderson, Hicks, Hixon, G.R. Smith and Thayer

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 56-1-210, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT PROVIDES THAT A FIVE YEAR DRIVER'S LICENSE MUST BE ISSUED TO A PERSON WHO IS AT LEAST SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE WHEN HE RENEWS HIS LICENSE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 56-1-220, RELATING TO VISION SCREENINGS THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR A PERSON TO RENEW HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT REQUIRES A PERSON TO SUBMIT A VISION SCREENING CERTIFICATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES DURING THE FIFTH YEAR OF A TEN YEAR DRIVER'S LICENSE, AND THE PROVISION THAT ALLOWS A PERSON WHO IS AT LEAST SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE TO OBTAIN A DRIVER'S LICENSE THAT IS VALID FOR FIVE YEARS.

03/05/15 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 37)
03/05/15 House Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 37)
04/23/15 House Committee report: Favorable Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 11)
04/28/15 House Debate adjourned until Wed., 4-29-15 (House Journal-page 117)
04/29/15 House Requests for debate-Rep(s). Bedingfield, Allison, DC Moss, Cobb-Hunter, Neal, Williams, Willis, Taylor, Clary, Limehouse, Toole, Loftis, Burns, Chumley, RL Brown, Kirby, Crosby, Jefferson, Howard, Hosey, Yow (House Journal-page 35)
04/29/15 House Debate adjourned until Tues., 5-5-15 (House Journal-page 153)
05/06/15 House Debate adjourned until Wed., 5-13-15 (House Journal-page 26)
05/13/15 House Amended (House Journal-page 25)
05/13/15 House Read second time (House Journal-page 25)
05/13/15 House Roll call Yeas-101 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 29)
05/14/15 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 21)
05/19/15 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 12)
05/19/15 Senate Referred to Committee on Transportation (Senate Journal-page 12)



Nikki R. Haley
Governor



Kevin A. Shwedo
Executive Director

State of South Carolina
Department of Motor Vehicles

January 28, 2015

Cynthia J. Lafforthun
1116 Watsonia Dr.
Aiken, SC 29803

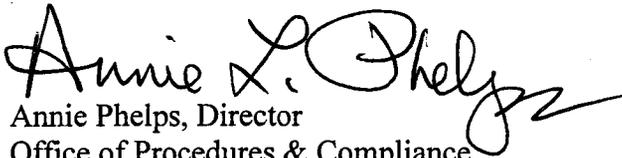
Dear Ms. Lafforthun:

Thank you for your letter of recent date about your concern regarding driver's license expirations for persons sixty-five years of age or older.

Please be aware that it is not our policy or procedure to single out or discriminate against any customer regardless of their age. As a driver's license issuing agency we must adhere to the statute outlined in Section 56-1-210 of the South Carolina Code of Law.

Thank you for voicing your concerns regarding this matter. I apologize that we are unable to be of assistance, but trust you will understand the department's position.

Sincerely,


Annie Phelps, Director
Office of Procedures & Compliance

South Carolina Code of Laws

SECTION 56-1-210. Expiration of license; renewal and re-examination; persons on active military duty.

(A) A license issued or renewed before October 1, 2003, expires on the licensee's birth date on the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued. A license issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2003, expires on the licensee's birth date on the tenth calendar year in which it is issued. When a person who is sixty-five years of age or older renews his license, the license shall expire five years from the date it was issued.

(B) A license is renewable on or before its expiration date upon application and the payment of the required fee.

(C) The Department of Motor Vehicles may renew a driver's license of a resident by mail or electronically upon payment of the required fee, if the renewal is a digitized license.

(D) A license may not be renewed until the licensee is reexamined as provided in Section 56-1-130, except that the licensee is not required to take the road test provided in Section 56-1-130; provided, further, that only the vision screening is required of those persons who have no more than five points for moving traffic violations in the two years prior to making application for renewal. For cause shown, the department may require the submission by the applicant of evidence satisfactory to the department of the applicant's mental and physical fitness to drive and his knowledge of traffic laws and regulations. If the evidence is not satisfactory to the department, the department may require an examination of the applicant as upon an original application. Parallel parking is not required as a part of the driver's test.

(E) If a person's license expires and he is unable to renew it before its expiration date because he is on active military duty outside this State for a continuous period of at least thirty days immediately before the expiration date or because he is the spouse or dependent living for a continuous period of at least thirty days immediately before the expiration date with a person on active military duty outside this State, within sixty days after returning to this State, the person may renew his license in the manner permitted by this section as though the license had not expired. The department may require proof from the person that he qualifies for renewal of his license under this paragraph. Upon request, the person shall provide the department with a copy of his military service record, a document of his branch of military service showing the date of active military duty outside the State, or other evidence presented by the person showing the dates of service.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 46-169; 1952 Code Section 46-166; 1942 Code Section 5994; 1932 Code Section 5994; 1930 (36) 1057; 1945 (44) 32; 1959 (51) 421; 1965 (54) 649; 1967 (55) 330; 1982 Act No. 352; 1988 Act No. 372; 1994 Act No. 487, Section 1; 1994 Act No. 497, Part II, Section 55D; 1996 Act No. 459, Section 74; 2003 Act No. 51, Section 13.



Universal Citation: SC Code § 56-1-220 (2012)

(A) Vision screenings are required for all persons before having their licenses renewed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The vision screening may be waived upon the submission of a certificate of vision examination dated within the previous twelve months from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state.

(B) During the fifth year of a ten-year license, the licensee must submit by mail to the department a certificate from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state or appear in person at a department office to complete a vision screening. If a licensee fails to submit a certificate or fails to appear in person, the licensee must be fined fifty dollars. The department shall waive the fine if the person completes the requirements of this section within ninety days after the end of the fifth year of a ten-year license. This fine must be placed by the Comptroller General into a special restricted account to be used by the department to defray the expenses incurred by this section. Interest accrued by this account must remain in this account.

(C) A vision screening will not be required before October 1, 2008, if a licensee is less than sixty-five years of age, his license expires on his birth date on the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued, and his license is renewed for an additional five years by mail or electronically. If a licensee is sixty-five years of age or older and his license expires on his birth date on the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued, then he may renew his license by mail for an additional five years upon submission of a certificate of vision examination from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state.

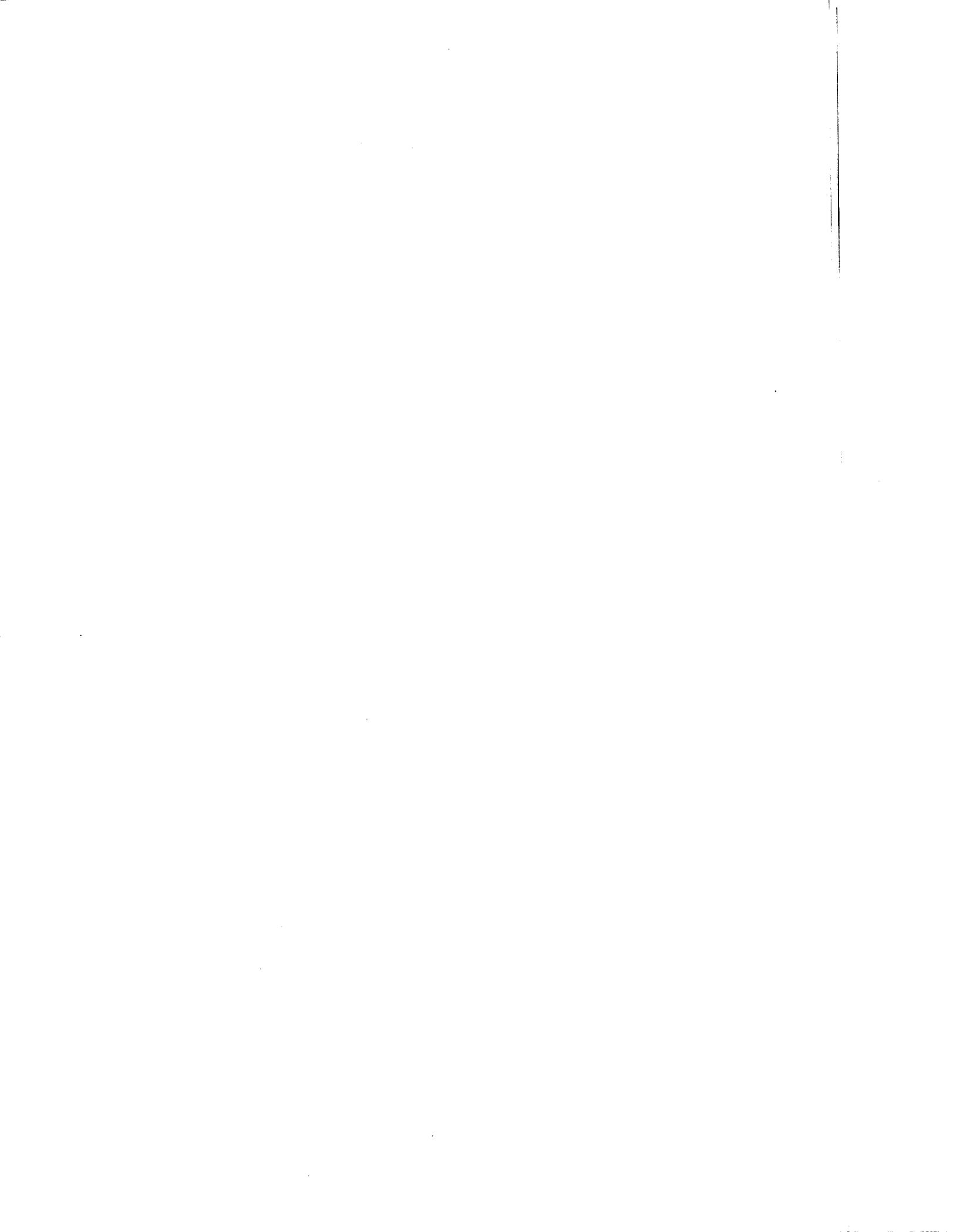
(D) The renewal license forms distributed by the department must be designed to contain a certification that the vision of the person screened meets the minimum standards required by the department or have been corrected to meet these requirements. The certification must be executed by the person conducting the screening. The minimum standards of the department shall not require a greater degree of vision than 20/40 corrected in one eye.

(E) A person whose vision is corrected to meet the minimum standards shall have the correction noted on his driver's license by the department.

(F) It is unlawful for a person whose vision requires correction in order to meet the minimum standards of the department to drive a motor vehicle in this State without the use of the correction.

(G) Unless otherwise provided in this section, any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days.

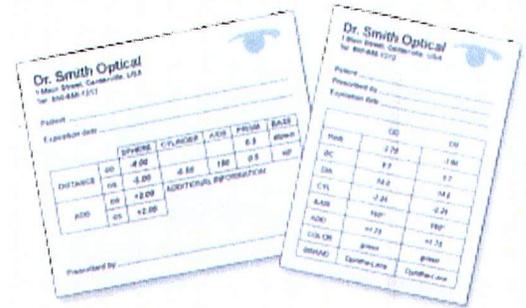
HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 46-169.1; 1965 (54) 649; 1993 Act No. 181, Section 1302; 2003 Act No. 51, Section 14.



Types of Astigmatism

There are three primary types of astigmatism:

- **Myopic astigmatism.** One or both principal meridians of the eye are nearsighted. (If both meridians are nearsighted, they are myopic in differing degree.)
- **Hyperopic astigmatism.** One or both principal meridians are farsighted. (If both are farsighted, they are hyperopic in differing degree.)
- **Mixed astigmatism.** One principal meridian is nearsighted, and the other is farsighted.



Try these interactive Rx forms to learn what the measurements mean on your eyeglass prescription or contact lens prescription.

Astigmatism also is classified as regular or irregular. In regular astigmatism, the principal meridians are 90 degrees apart (perpendicular to each other). In irregular astigmatism, the principal meridians are not perpendicular. Most astigmatism is regular corneal astigmatism, which gives the front surface of the eye a football shape.

Irregular astigmatism can result from an eye injury that has caused scarring on the cornea, from certain types of eye surgery or from keratoconus, a disease that causes a gradual thinning of the cornea.

How Common Is Astigmatism?

Astigmatism often occurs early in life, so it is important to schedule an eye exam for your child to avoid vision problems in school from uncorrected astigmatism.

In a recent study of 2,523 American children ages 5 to 17 years, more than 28 percent had astigmatism of 1.0 diopter (D) or greater.

Also, there were significant differences in astigmatism prevalence based on ethnicity. Asian and Hispanic children had the highest prevalences (33.6 and 36.9 percent, respectively), followed by whites (26.4 percent) and African-Americans (20.0 percent).

In another study of more than 11,000 eyeglass wearers in the UK (both children and adults), 47.4 percent had astigmatism of 0.75 D or greater in at least one eye, and 24.1 percent had this amount of astigmatism in both eyes. The prevalence of myopic astigmatism (31.7 percent) was approximately double that of hyperopic astigmatism (15.7 percent).

Astigmatism Test

Astigmatism is detected during a routine eye exam with the same instruments and techniques used for the detection of nearsightedness and farsightedness.

Your eye doctor can estimate the amount of astigmatism you have by shining a light into your eye while manually introducing a series of lenses between the light and your eye. This test is called retinoscopy.

Though many eye doctors continue to perform retinoscopy, this manual procedure has been replaced or supplemented in many eye care practices with automated instruments that provide a faster preliminary test for astigmatism and other refractive errors.

Whether your eye exam includes retinoscopy, an automated refraction, or both, your optometrist or ophthalmologist will perform another test called a manual refraction to refine the results of these preliminary astigmatism tests.

In a manual refraction (also called a manifest refraction or subjective refraction), your eye doctor places an instrument called a phoropter in front of your eyes. The phoropter contains many lenses that can be introduced in front of your eyes one at a time so you can compare them.



Myopia (Nearsightedness)

By Gretchnyn Bailey; reviewed by Gary Heiting, OD

On this page: Myopia symptoms • Myopia causes • Treatment • Myopia control • Degenerative myopia

Nearsightedness, or myopia, is the most common refractive error of the eye, and it has become more prevalent in recent years.

In fact, a recent study by the National Eye Institute (NEI) shows the prevalence of myopia grew from 25 percent of the U.S. population (ages 12 to 54) in 1971-1972 to a whopping 41.6 percent in 1999-2004.

Though the exact cause for this increase in nearsightedness among Americans is unknown, many eye doctors feel it has something to do with eye fatigue from computer use and other extended near vision tasks, coupled with a genetic predisposition for myopia.

Myopia Symptoms and Signs

If you are nearsighted, you typically will have difficulty reading road signs and seeing distant objects clearly, but will be able to see well for close-up tasks such as reading and computer use.

Other signs and symptoms of myopia include squinting, eye strain and headaches. Feeling fatigued when driving or playing sports also can be a symptom of uncorrected nearsightedness.

If you experience these signs or symptoms while wearing your glasses or contact lenses, schedule a comprehensive eye examination with your optometrist or ophthalmologist to see if you need a stronger prescription.



Watch this video on myopia, what causes it, why it progresses and the various techniques for controlling myopia.



Hyperopia (Farsightedness)

By Gretchyn Bailey; reviewed by Vance Thompson, MD;
Flash illustration by Stephen Bagi

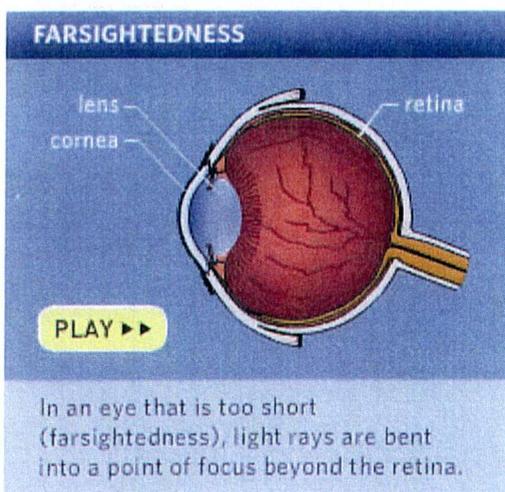
Hyperopia, or farsightedness, is a common vision problem, affecting about a fourth of the population. People with hyperopia can see distant objects very well, but have difficulty focusing on objects that are up close. In some areas the condition is known as "hypermetropia" rather than hyperopia.

Hyperopia Symptoms and Signs

Farsighted people sometimes have headaches or eye strain and may squint or feel fatigued when performing work at close range. If you get these symptoms while wearing your eyeglasses or contact lenses, you may need an eye exam and a new prescription.

What Causes Hyperopia/Hypermetropia?

This vision problem occurs when light rays entering the eye focus behind the retina, rather than directly on it. The eyeball of a farsighted person is shorter than normal.

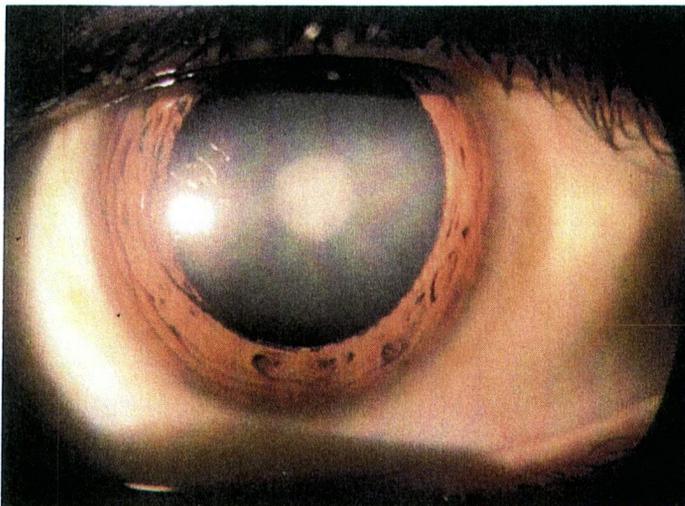


Many children are born farsighted, and some of them "outgrow" it as the eyeball lengthens with normal growth.

Sometimes people confuse hyperopia with presbyopia, which also causes near vision problems but for different reasons.



- BUSINESS ▾
- MEDIA ▾
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- DEMOGRAPHIC ▾
- TECHNOLOGY ▾
- SPORTS ▾



TRENDING STATISTICS

- [Gluten / Celiac Disease Statistics](#)
- [Ebola Virus Outbreak Statistics](#)
- [Cyberbullying / Bullying Statistics](#)
- [Highest Paid NBA Players 2015-2016](#)
- [Biggest Game Show Winners of All-Time](#)
- [Self-Employed Worker Statistics](#)

Cataract Statistics

Find a Doctor Near You

Opioid dependence treatment in the privacy of a doctor's office

Cataract Statistics

Number of Americans age 40 and older who are affected by Cataracts 20.5 million

Percent of Americans age 80 and older who have Cataracts 50 %

Annual amount spent by the federal government to treat cataracts through Medicare \$3.4 billion

Cataract Surgery Statistics

Average cost of cataract surgery per eye \$3,279

Newsroom and Media / Statistics

Eye Health Statistics Polls and Surveys

Eye Health Statistics

Eye Diseases

Visual Impairment and Blindness

Refractive Errors

Eye Injuries

Ophthalmologists

Fireworks Survey 2015

[View Highlights](#)

Eye Diseases

Q: How many people in the United States have cataracts?

A: Cataracts affect more than 24.4 million Americans age 40 and older. By age 75, approximately half of all Americans have cataracts.^[1]

Q: How many people in the United States have glaucoma?

A: Glaucoma affects more than 2.7 million Americans age 40 and older.^[2]

Q: How many people in the United States have age-related macular degeneration (AMD)?

A: Nearly 2.1 million Americans age 50 and older have late AMD, the stage that can lead to severe vision impairment. In 2010, 9.1 million Americans had early AMD.^[3] By age 80, one in ten Americans has late AMD, which is more common in women than in men.^[4]

Q: How many people in the United States have diabetic retinopathy?

A: Diabetic retinopathy affects nearly 7.7 million Americans age 40 and older.^[5]

The number of people in the United States with diabetes is increasing. More than 29 million Americans have diabetes. About 27% of those with diabetes—8.1 million Americans—do not know they have the disease. Diabetes affects 12.3% of adults age 20 and older.^[6]

Q: How many people in the United States have dry eye?

A: The prevalence of dry eye syndrome increases with age. An estimated 3.2 million women age 50 and over and 1.68 million men age 50 and over are affected by dry eye syndrome.^{[7],[8]}

Q: How many corneal transplants are performed in the United States annually?

A: There were 48,229 corneal transplants performed in the United States in 2013. Since 1961, more than 1,000,000 men, women and children ranging in age from nine days to 100+ years, have had their sight restored through a corneal transplant.^[9]

Q: How many people in the United States get eye infections each year?

A: Nearly a million eye infections that require a trip to the doctor or hospital happen each year, many of them related to contact lens use.^[10]

Visual Impairment and Blindness

Q: How many people in the United States are legally blind?

A: Nearly 1.3 million Americans age 40 and older are legally blind.^[11] (Defined as best-corrected visual acuity worse than or equal to 20/200 in the better-seeing eye.)

Q: How many people in the United States have low vision?

A: More than 2.9 million Americans age 40 and older have low vision.^[12] (Defined as best-corrected visual acuity worse than 20/40; this number excludes those who are legally blind.)

Q: How many people in the United States are visually impaired?

A: Nearly 4.2 million Americans age 40 and older are visually impaired.^[13] (Defined as best-corrected visual acuity worse than 20/40 in the better-seeing eye; this number includes both those with low vision and those who are legally blind.)

Q: How prevalent is color blindness in the United States?

A: Approximately 8% of men and 0.5% of women among populations with Northern European ancestry have the most common form of color blindness that makes it hard to see red or green. The incidence of this condition is lower in almost all other populations studied.^[14]

Refractive Errors

Q: How many people in the United States have myopia (nearsightedness)?

A: More than 34 million Americans age 40 and older are myopic, or 23.9% of that population.^[15] (Myopia defined as 1.0 diopters or more.)

Q: How many people in the United States have hyperopia (farsightedness)?

A: Nearly 14.2 million Americans age 40 and older are hyperopic, or 8.4% of that population.^[16] (Hyperopia defined as 3.0 diopters or more.)

Q: How common is astigmatism in the United States?

A: This refractive error occurs in about 1 in 3 people and may occur in combination with near- or farsightedness. It causes blurry vision and is due to the cornea being less than perfectly rounded.^[17]

Q: How many Americans wear some type of corrective eyewear?

A: More than 150 million Americans use corrective eyewear to compensate for refractive errors. Americans spend more than \$15 billion each year on eyewear.^[18]

Q: How many people wear contact lenses in the United States?

A: Approximately 37 million Americans wear contact lenses.^[19]

Q: How many refractive surgical procedures (such as LASIK and PRK) are performed annually in the United States?

A: Approximately 800,000 procedures were performed in 2010.^[20]

Eye Injuries

Q: How many people in the United States suffer eye injuries each year?

A: Each year an estimated 2.4 million eye injuries occur in the United States.^[21] Using protective eyewear can prevent 90% of all eye injuries.^[22]

Q: Who is most likely to be injured?

A: Nearly 35% of all eye injuries occur in people 18 to 45 years of age.^[19]

Q: Where do most eye injuries occur?

Accidents involving common household products cause 125,000 eye injuries each year.^[23]

More than 2,000 people injure their eyes at work each day. Of the total amount of work-related injuries, 10-20% will cause temporary or permanent vision loss.^[24]

Q: What are the most common eye injuries?

A: A foreign body in the eye is the most common type of injury, accounting for 35% of the total. Open wounds and contusions each account for about 25%, and the remaining injuries are burns.

[21]

Ophthalmologists

Q: How many ophthalmologists are there in the United States?

A: There are 19,216 active ophthalmologists in the United States.^[25]

Q: How many ophthalmologists are there worldwide (including the United States)?

A: There are approximately 213,459 ophthalmologists worldwide.^[26]

- [1] <https://www.nei.nih.gov/eyedata/cataract>
- [2] <https://www.nei.nih.gov/eyedata/glaucoma>
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