

Title: **Chipping away at domestic violence**

Author:

Size: 45.26 square inch

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Chipping away at domestic violence

Devastating national data leave no question that South Carolina has a major problem with domestic violence.

Now, two promising legislative initiatives are aiming to curb the problem and remove the state from the list of the most dangerous for women at the hands of men.

Last Tuesday, Gov. Nikki Haley signed a law establishing 16 local panels across the state – one in each of the court’s circuits – to analyze circumstances behind individual criminal domestic violence, or CDV, deaths.

And last Thursday, S.C. House budget writers discussed including \$2.9 million for new prosecutors to specialize in CDV cases and \$1.1 million for three judges to handle an increased caseload.

The budget items are critical if South Carolina is to address domestic abuse. At present, police officers often handle CDV court cases.

In every other state but Virginia and New Hampshire that is the job of prosecutors.

Not only would victims feel more secure with prosecutors who focus primarily on CDV, but the cases would likely receive more attention and get better results.

In a total budget of about \$7.5 billion, there should be no quibbling about this important \$4 million expense – particularly considering domestic violence’s real costs for law enforcement, court proceedings and health care, and its human cost in lives.

As she signed the bill establishing local panels, Gov. Haley said, “This is the beginning of what is going to be South Carolina reforming herself to say that survivors matter, that victims matter and that domestic abuse is part of the past.”

The panels should play a key role. Solicitors will establish them to include law enforcement, prosecutors, forensic scientists and other stakeholders. They will review each fatality that is related to domestic violence. Was the response appropriate? Were there gaps in service? Is more training needed?

And because various pertinent agencies will be involved in the analysis, they will also be better able to coordinate with each other toward the elimination of criminal domestic violence.

That information will go to the statewide committee, which has been charged with finding systemic solutions.

South Carolina has been one of nine states without such a review process in place.

The Post and Courier series “Till Death Do Us Part” won wide attention in 2014 for reporting the large number of women who had died by domestic violence and problems with the way these cases had been investigated and prosecuted.

The Legislature subsequently passed several domestic violence reforms.

Additional prosecutors and judges, along with CDV panels – and the statewide committee to which they will provide information – will keep this scourge of our



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state in focus and step up the search for
ways to eliminate it.

— *Post & Courier*, Charleston

Title: **Brussels attacks pushing S.C. vote on refugee bill**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
 Size: 31.15 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Brussels attacks pushing S.C. vote on refugee bill

BY ANDREW SHAIN
 ashain@thestate.com

Republicans in the S.C. State Senate want to vote this week on a bill that would require the tracking of refugees entering the state.

The proposal also would hold refugees' sponsors liable for any crimes committed by settlers from terrorist nations.

Opponents filibustered the bill last week. But the attacks Tuesday by ISIS terrorists in Brussels are expected to speed the Senate's action. The attack at a Belgian airport and subway station killed at least 31 people and wounded nearly 190, according to news reports.

State Sen. Kevin Bryant, the Anderson Republican who co-sponsored the bill, said S.C. authorities have little or no knowledge of the background of refugees entering the state.

"We're not going to roll out the red carpet for ISIS," he said.

Thus far, only two Syrian refugees have resettled in Richland County, arriving

late last year with the help of the Lutheran Services Carolinas charity. However, that group has resettled nearly 50 refugees from different countries in the state, according to published reports.

Sen. Kevin Johnson, a Clarendon Democrat who opposes the bill, said lawmakers should have compassion for refugees fleeing violence in their homelands, rather than try to make it harder for them to settle in South Carolina. He said refugees would prefer to remain in their countries but can't because of violence.

"The attacks in Brussels make the point that I have been trying to make all along," he said. "We have people in these countries ... they're living in absolute terror and someone has to be concerned about their plight.

These people need a safe place to go."

Johnson said lawmakers who favor the bill have little trust that federal law en-

forcement and government officials can stop terrorists from entering the state disguised as refugees.

Johnson added, "I have faith in these agencies, that they're going to do all they can."

If passed, the bill would require:

- Refugees to provide their address, telephone number, work information and criminal record to the S.C. Department of Social Services within 30 days of arriving in the state
 - Social Services to post the refugee database on its website and share information about refugees with the State Law Enforcement Division
 - SLED to check that refugees pose no safety risks
- Also, sponsors who bring refugees from a country recognized by the federal government as a state sponsor of terrorism could be held liable in civil court for any criminal activity by those refugees.

Bryant said he plans to eliminate a provision in the bill that would require that no state or local government money be spent to benefit refugees. Opponents raised questions about how that would affect child refugees

who attend public schools.

New York is the only other state in the country now considering a similar refugee registry, the Associated Press reported.

The Republican-dominated Senate gave the bill priority status by a 32-4 vote last month. All four "no" votes came from Democrats.

However, eight Senate Democrats, including Minority Leader Nikki Setzler of Lexington, backed putting the proposal at the top of the Senate calendar. Setzler said he supported debating the bill, but would not say how he will vote on the proposal.

If it passes the Senate, the bill still must be approved in the House and Gov. Nikki Haley's signature before it would become law.

Title: **Flags statewide to fly at half-staff to honor Conway firefighter**
 Author: BY AUDREY HUDSON ahudson@thesunnews.com
 Size: 23.25 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Flags statewide to fly at half-staff to honor Conway firefighter

Christopher Gene Ray's funeral will be held Thursday

The firefighter was killed Sunday after responding to a house fire

BY AUDREY HUDSON
ahudson@thesunnews.com

Gov. Nikki Haley requests that flags statewide be flown at half-staff from sunrise until sunset Friday in honor of Conway firefighter Christopher Gene Ray, who was killed Sunday during a call to a house fire.

Firefighters across Horry County are mourning the loss of Ray, who was killed after falling from a fire engine, which struck the firefighter while reversing down a street near the fire on Hickory Circle.

Ray's funeral is sched-

FROM PAGE 3A

FLAGS

Christopher Ray's funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at Beach Church, 557 George Bishop Parkway in Myrtle Beach. Visitation is from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Goldfinch Conway Chapel.

Labor is also investigating whether any OSHA vio-

lated for 11 a.m. Thursday at Beach Church, 557 George Bishop Parkway in Myrtle Beach. Visitation is from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Goldfinch Conway Chapel.

The fire gutted the house on Hickory Circle, but no injuries inside the home were reported.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives offered additional manpower to the department's arson team to investigate the cause of the

fire while the Conway personnel mourn their loss.

Meanwhile, Trooper Sony Collins with the S.C. Highway Patrol said Tuesday that the details of the incident are still under investigation, and that it will take weeks before a final report is made public.

The state Department of

SEE FLAGS, 10A

lations occurred that may have contributed to the incident, said Labor Department spokeswoman Lesia Kudelka. That review is expected to take at least two months.

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Title: **State leaders buck GOP voters**

Author:

Size: 9.76 square inch

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State leaders buck GOP voters

This 2016 presidential election is certainly out of the box. The South Carolina primary showed us that our citizens do care about the future leadership of the country by turning out in record numbers to cast a ballot.

Prior to the primary, our governor and U.S. senators voiced who they thought were the best choice(s). But since the vote, the statistics speak in a loud and clear voice that the "People of South Carolina" back one candidate more than any other, Donald Trump.

Yet now that the "party" has mounted a strong "anybody but Trump" campaign, state leadership has turned its back on its own. Real data (vote counts) prove what the people desire and deserve. The politicians should hear and act on the wishes of the majority of the constituency, but apparently they think "party politics" are more important than what the simple folk want.

Haley, Graham, and Scott, the voices you ignore are the same folks who will remember your proclivities next time your elections roll around.

- John Collier, Myrtle Beach

Title: **Primaries for council seat coincide with statewide votes**
 Author: BY SARAH ELLIS sellis@thestate.com
 Size: 18.29 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



RICHLAND COUNTY

Primaries for council seat coincide with statewide votes

BY SARAH ELLIS
sellis@thestate.com

The Richland County elections office has set dates and a tentative budget for a primary and potential runoff and special election for Kelvin Washington's vacated District 10 council seat.

Gov. Nikki Haley last week removed Washington from his seat after determining his failure to file income taxes for three years to be a crime of moral turpitude.

The interim representative could be elected in as few as one and as many as three elections, depending on whether there is a clear winner in the primary and whether there are candidates from multiple parties.

The District 10 seat traditionally has been held by Democrats.

The partisan primaries for the District 10 seat will be held concurrently with the already scheduled primaries June 14.

If there is no clear winner in the primary, a runoff will be held

➔ MORE INSIDE

Who filed Tuesday and a complete list of who's running, **8A**

concurrently with the already scheduled June 28 runoff elections.

If candidates file from both parties, a special election will be held July 19.

Richland County Council approved the schedule Tuesday night.

The cost to Richland County for the special election could be as little as \$33,500 or as much as \$96,200, depending on whether one, two or three elections are required, county elections officials say.

When filing for Richland County offices opened last week, three Democratic candidates entered the race for the District 10 seat: Bernice Scott, who is Washington's mother-in-law; Helen Taylor Bradley; and Jerome Marvin Miller.

Reach Ellis at (803) 771-8307.

Title: **House needs to correct flaws in Senate roads plan**
 Author:
 Size: 50.06 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



EDITORIAL

House needs to correct flaws in Senate roads plan

GOV. NIKKI HALEY may be right to worry that we won't get a roads bill if the House changes the flawed Senate bill. The Senate has become such a dysfunctional mess that it will take a serious commitment by that body's leaders to even get a vote on an amended bill.

But to suggest that the House should pretend it is not a co-equal body with the Senate and swallow the Senate plan whole is absurd. To claim that House leaders' refusal to do that is "all about ownership and who came up with the idea" is nonsensical. To say the blame will be "on the House" if the Senate refuses to consider House changes is offensive.

The governor might have a point if the Senate plan were perfect — or even close. It is not. Although its reform provisions are better than we could have hoped for, the funding side of the bill is at best irresponsible and at worst fraudulent.

The governor might have a point if the House were refusing to compromise. It is not. House leaders have abandoned their plan to raise the gas tax to provide permanent funding for roads. That's a huge concession in a body that voted by an overwhelming 87-20 to increase the gas tax, and it shows a tremendous willingness to meet the Senate more than halfway.

The problem with the Senate bill is that it commits the Legislature to siphoning \$400 million out of our state's general budget fund and giving it to

the Transportation Department. Although the Legislature has been raiding the general fund for the past few years, it has been on an ad hoc basis. The Senate plan locks this into state law, and officially abandons our state's long-held position that how much people pay for our roads should be related to how much they use them.

The Senate plan says that henceforth, it will allocate \$400 million less each year than it otherwise would have to pay teacher salaries, to protect vulnerable children from abusive parents, to employ the judges who lock up the bad guys and the prison guards who keep the bad guys from escaping and the scientists who test our water to make sure it's safe to drink, and everything else. This is simply irresponsible.

Of course, Senate Republicans have no intention of following through. That's why their bill leaves it up to the Legislature each year to decide whether to divert \$400 million from the rest of state government.

That's just like the law that promises an amount equal to 4.5 percent of the previous year's budget for local governments — a promise that hasn't been kept in years. It's just like the law that promises to fund the "base student cost" using a formula that includes inflation and the number of students enrolled in the public schools — a promise that hasn't been kept in years.

Title: **House needs to correct flaws in Senate roads plan**
Author:
Size: 50.06 square inch
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

Next year's House budget will include nearly \$400 million to pay for roads, which is all the Senate bill guarantees. The House needs to eliminate the sure-to-be-broken promise in the Senate roads bill and adopt the Senate's reform plan, which lets the governor hire and fire all the members of the Transportation Commission and gives her commission veto-power over the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank. Although the House bill has some good reform provisions, the Senate's plan is better, and accepting it should make it easier to get a bill to the governor.

In doing so, the House would be saying three things: We have reluctantly abandoned our smart work to provide a permanent funding source, even though a third of the money would have been paid by out-of-state drivers. We have embraced your reform plan instead of our own. But we simply will not be party to the promise that we know and you know will not be kept. We will not perpetuate a fraud upon the public by telling drivers we have taken care of this problem; your bill does not take care of this problem, and our budget includes nearly all the money for next year that your bill promises — which is all the money that your bill is capable of delivering.

If the Senate refuses to go along, then the Senate will have failed us.

If there is failure beyond that, it's in the governor's office, because it was the governor who demanded that lawmakers cut income taxes by \$1.7 billion per year if they wanted to raise the gas tax by \$400 million per year. Please read that again, because her demand is often characterized as a dollar-for-dollar swap. What the governor demanded was so breathtakingly unreasonable that it doomed any chance of passing a reasonable plan.

The one saving grace in the Senate's finance plan is that it took *that* issue off the table. Now the House needs to take the Senate's perpetual promise off the table.

Title: **Brussels attacks push SC Senate vote on bill**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
 Size: 47.89 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



SYRIAN REFUGEE TRACKING

Brussels attacks push SC Senate vote on bill

Tuesday's events expected to speed up move on proposal

BY ANDREW SHAIN
 ashain@thestate.com

Republicans in the S.C. State Senate want to vote this week on a bill that would require the tracking of refugees entering the state.

The proposal also would hold refugees' sponsors liable for any crimes committed by settlers from terrorist nations.

Opponents filibustered the bill last week. But the attacks Tuesday by ISIS terrorists in Brussels are expected to speed the

Senate's action. The attack at a Belgian airport and subway station killed at least 31 people and wounded nearly 190, according to news reports.

State Sen. Kevin Bryant, the Anderson Republican who co-sponsored the bill, said S.C. authorities have little or no knowledge of the background of refugees entering the state.

"We're not going to roll out the red carpet for ISIS," he said.

Thus far, only two Syrian refugees have resettled in Richland County, arriving late last year with the help of the Lutheran Services Carolinas charity. However, that group has resettled nearly 50 refugees from different countries in the state, according to published reports.

Sen. Kevin Johnson, a Clarendon Democrat who opposes the bill, said lawmakers should have compassion for refugees flee-

ing violence in their homelands, rather than try to make it harder for them to settle in South Carolina. He said refugees would prefer to remain in their countries but can't because of violence.

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SEE REFUGEE BILL, 8A

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FROM PAGE 1A

REFUGEE BILL

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Johnson said lawmakers who favor the bill have little trust that federal law enforcement and government officials can stop terrorists from entering the state disguised as refugees.

Johnson added, “I have faith in these agencies, that they’re going to do all they can.”

If passed, the bill would require:

- Refugees to provide their address, telephone number, work information and criminal record to the

S.C. Department of Social Services within 30 days of arriving in the state

- Social Services to post the refugee database on its website and share information about refugees with the State Law Enforcement Division

- SLED to check that refugees pose no safety risks

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However, eight Senate Democrats, including

Minority Leader Nikki Setzler of Lexington, backed putting the proposal at the top of the Senate calendar. Setzler said he supported debating the bill, but would not say how he will vote on the proposal.

If it passes the Senate, the bill still must win approval in the House and Gov. Nikki Haley’s signature before it would become law.

Haley, a Republican, has expressed her concerns about the lack of vetting of refugees to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and FBI Director James Comey.

Title: **Hayes formally launches Senate re-election bid**
 Author:
 Size: 14.72 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



BRIEFS

Hayes formally launches Senate re-election bid

Rock Hill's longtime senator is seeking a seventh full term in the S.C. Senate, putting him on course for a primary fight with a former York County GOP chairman.

Wes Hayes announced Monday he intends to run for another four-year term in the Senate, holding his formal campaign kickoff event in the Magnolia Room at Laurel Creek.

Hayes formally filed for re-election last week, as did his opponent in the Republican primary, Wes Climer, who prior to his announcement this month served as the chairman of the York County Republican Party.

"I'm anxious to continue talking to voters about the need to hold the line on gas taxes and finally passing Governor Haley's ethics reform plan," Hayes said in a news re-

lease Tuesday. "Our citizens deserve a conservative government that will get more done and is both transparent and accountable."

Hayes has served in the Senate for almost 25 years, after serving six years in the House of Representatives.

A graduate of West Point, Hayes served in the 82nd Airborne Division before entering civilian life as an attorney, and eventually retired as a colonel from the Army National Guard. In 2006, he was named "Public Servant of the Year" by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, and in 2011 Furman University recognized him with the David H. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership.

The Republican primary will be on June 14.

— BRISTOW MARCHANT



Title: **Bill banning abortion at 20 weeks awaits passage in S. Carolina House**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 46.34 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473

Bill banning abortion at 20 weeks awaits passage in S. Carolina House

TIM SMITH

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA — House Judiciary Committee Chairman Greg Delleney says he was embarrassed last week when the House failed twice to grant final approval to a House-created bill to ban abortions at 20 weeks.

But Delleney and a Democratic opponent of the bill both say it is a matter of time before the bill receives enough votes and heads to the governor's desk.

"It's just a matter of time for them to get back to it and get three more votes to get it done," Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, an Orangeburg Democrat who opposes the bill, told *The Greenville News*. "The people who were supportive of it were not here and that kept them from getting the 83 votes."

The bill, called the Pain Capable Unborn Child Act, was originally authored by Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville and was passed last year in the House by a vote of 80-27. Abortion foes contend that fetuses can feel pain by the age, which is where the bill received its name.

The House version banned abortions in cases in which pregnancies are at 20 weeks or more with an exception for medical emergencies.

The Senate added exceptions for rape, incest and severe fetal anomalies, meaning the fetus could not survive outside the womb. A conference committee made up of three House members and three senators agreed to drop the exceptions for rape and incest.

When a conference committee wants to do something that neither body passed, they have to come back to each



FILE

An abortion limit bill awaits a House vote.

chamber and ask permission. The Senate gave its approval two weeks ago and then approved the compromise by a vote of 36-9.

But when the issue returned to the House, the chamber failed first by one vote and then by three votes to give the committee permission, what lawmakers call free conference.

"It's really embarrassing that we have not been able to get free conference yet," Delleney, a Republican, told *The News*. "There's not 83 Republicans in the House and we do need some Democratic support. Although I think 15 Democrats voted for the bill to begin with and this is a more liberal bill than the bill they voted for, yet about half the people who voted for the bill did not

vote for free conference powers."

Delleney said he thinks some Democrats were playing a "political game." He said some Republicans were not in the chamber that day.

"I anticipate we will eventually get free conference powers," he said. "I didn't think it was going to be a problem or I wouldn't have taken the first vote."

Even representatives of Planned Parenthood had expected a quick House approval and directed their message after the Senate vote to the governor.

"The reality is that this unpopular legislation is simply part of a broader agenda to chip away at safe and legal abortion in South Carolina," Melissa Reed, executive director for Planned Parenthood Votes! South Atlantic said at the time. "We call on Gov. Nikki Haley to put women's health before politics and veto this extreme bill."

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states, according to the Associated Press, which notes that they have been blocked where they have been challenged.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals struck down both Idaho's and Arizona's versions, AP has reported. Georgia state court blocked enforcement of that state's 20-week ban in 2012, according to the institute.

Without citing a reason, the U.S. Supreme Court declined in January 2014 to hear an appeal from Arizona — which had banned abortion at 18 weeks past fertilization.

"We will have yet another constitutional court challenge that taxpayers are going to fork over money for," Cobb-Hunter said of South Carolina..

Title: **Former Lt. Gov. McGill running for governor as a Republican**
 Author: ANDREW SHAIN THE STATE
 Size: 30.53 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Former Lt. Gov. McGill running for governor as a Republican

ANDREW SHAIN
THE STATE

Former Democratic Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill told The State on Monday that he plans to run for governor in 2018 as a Republican.

McGill, the last Democrat to hold statewide office, said he switched parties last week after years of leaning toward pro-Republican stances on government spending and regulation as well as abortion.

"I have backed a lot of conservative issues over the years, and people have asked me why not consider joining the (Republican) party," said McGill, who spent 25 years at the State House, representing a heavily Democratic district in Williamsburg and Georgetown counties.

Asked why he remained a Democrat, the real estate broker and homebuilder said, "I couldn't join the Republican Party because I lived in a Democratic district. Now, that I'm not in office in a

Democratic district, I could join."

McGill's switch to the GOP is the most significant since then-state Sen. Verne Smith of Greenville helped Republicans win a majority in the Senate in 2001, state GOP chairman Matt Moore said.

Democratic leaders in his district were not surprised McGill switched parties after years of voting with Republicans, S.C. Democratic chairman Jaime Harrison said.

"If he thinks that switching parties for a statewide run as a Republican will succeed, he needs to know that voters will see through that," Harrison said. "They have plenty of real Republicans to vote for. And it's not like Democrats are going to support him now."

McGill, 63, said he never heard complaints about his voting record. McGill's history of bipartisanship was a reason that few Republicans objected to him becoming lieutenant governor in 2014 after Glenn McConnell, a Republican, stepped down to become president of

the College of Charleston.

"I was a state senator, not based on party, but based on representing all the citizens of South Carolina," McGill said.

McGill did not run for the lieutenant governor in 2014, a race won by Republican Henry McMaster.

After assuming office last year, McMaster hired McGill as the state director of the S.C. Office on Aging — a post within the lieutenant governor's office that paid \$122,000 a year. McGill stayed in the job eight months before returning home to Kingstree to work on his small family farm.

"We do need some new leadership in the state," McGill said.

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley cannot run again under state law after winning re-election to a second term in 2014.

The 2018 governor's race is expected to draw many Republican candidates. House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope, R-York, is the only other publicly to say he plans to run for governor.