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Subject: Draft Statement

We should talk tone/details before taking action on this...

CLS

Statement from Gov. Haley on [WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT]:

This is the critical week for pension reform and the Department of Administration bill. We've worked on both of these issues for two full sessions now, and now it's time to get the job done for the citizens and taxpayers of South Carolina.

When I talk to credit rating agencies, they tell me that the most important thing we can do to protect our rating is to take action to reduce the unfunded liabilities in our pension system. This means a more fiscally-responsible approach to providing cost-of-living increases. This means that employees will have to contribute more to help sustain the system that will, in turn, help sustain them in old age. And this means closing the doors on TERI once and for all. I commend Representative Merrill, Senator Alexander, and the other members of the conference committee for the progress they've made so far.

We also know that finishing our work on the Department of Administration is essential to creating a leaner and more effective government. This bill not only improves accountability, but also the quality of the services that South Carolina state government provides. It will also let us run the state more like a business. No CEO lacks control over personnel, facilities, technology, or other backoffice functions, and this state's Governor shouldn't either. Senator Larry Martin, Chairman Harrison, and the other members of the H. 3066 conference committee understand that, and I appreciate all their hard work.

The time is now. The conference committee reports for both of these bills must be completed and adopted this week if they are to become law this year. South Carolina can't afford for either of them to fail when we've worked so hard to pass these crucial reforms.

I applaud the Senators and Representatives who have struggled to reach a compromise on both of these bills, which address some very complex issues. I also appreciate that many of us feel passionately about specific aspects of these bills, but we are running out of time. It's time to give South Carolina the reform it so strongly desires. It's time to bring both these bills home.

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