

Javon Antonio Roggerson
1075 Fairfield Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115

February 23, 2015

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

Dear Governor Nicky R. Haley:

My name is Javon Antonio Roggerson and I am an early childhood education major here at South Carolina State University. I am contacting you with regards to Proviso.19.so. This proposal is a direct proposal to shut down SC State for Fiscal Year 2015-16, all operations and programs of the South Carolina State University shall be suspended as of July 1, 2015. The university shall remain closed for one year during which time the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee will establish a plan to reconstitute South Carolina State University and reopen the school in the fall of 2017.

This proposal is in no way, shape, or form a legitimate means of helping SC State or its occupants. Closing this History Black University would only hurt its future and the future of those that attend and work at the university but also the surrounding communities that rely so heavily on the business of the students and faculty. South Carolina State University was founded in 1896 as the only avenue of higher learning for African Americans in the state of South Carolina. In a country that would initially not educate blacks; we have come very far since President Abraham Lincoln put into motion a law that permitted rights to all African Americans, including education. This was known as the 14th Amendment. I truly do not believe if the University of South Carolina was in the same predicament that anyone would be voting to potentially shut the school down. Alternative solutions would be found and thus an alternative should be found for SC State. This publicity alone has already tarnished the school's name in ways you might not ever understand. Attendance and moral of the school has dropped significantly and will continue to plummet unless this provision is revoked and re-planned. The damage that has already been done will not be made up right away; just as the money the school owes will not be recovered in a short period of time. Closing the school will cut the cost down but it will also stop money from generating. Again I come to the point of how this proviso will benefit our school, but all I see is negative connotations surrounding the issue. Will this truly help anyone? Or will thousands of young Americans be forced to find another route in a society that was not made to benefit people of our background in the first place.

I ask if there is anything you can do to reexamine or reevaluate the terms of proviso and ask yourself that question; how will this help? I thank you for your time and the fact that your contact information is made available so easily. I understand that you are a very busy individual but I have never asked for anything but to take our school would be to take an unalienable right

from us, the pursuit of happiness. Please do not tarnish, more than it already has, what our fore fathers created because they saw the need for educating disenfranchised youth from all over the United States. For some there is no other opportunity; this is all they have and know. I ask you one more favor before I conclude my letter and that is to put yourself in our shoes for one split second and ask yourself how it would benefit anyone; even those who wish to collect the money that is owed. Again, I thank you for your time and your services to governing our great state. I both applaud and salute you no matter the outcome. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

