

From: Palmetto Policy Forum <info@palmettopolicy.org>  
To: Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov  
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Subject: Why Does It Matter?

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## Palmetto Policy Forum

November 1, 2013

Students at Meeting Street Academy, Spartanburg, SC.

What a great question. Sometimes, as a self-confessed policy nerd, it's easy for me to get way too excited about the nuts and bolts of policy-making and lose sight of the reason why it all matters! So in today's email, we're going to take a few minutes to share some stories of South Carolinians - our friends and neighbors - who are impacted by policy...for better or for worse. While we can't govern by anecdote, we can never forget that *people* are the reason we do what we do.

Last week, we launched an education resource catalogue for parents called *Empowering Students: Education Options for South Carolina Families*. *Empowering Students* is built around stories of families who are benefitting from the growing number of education options in South Carolina. During our launch day, we visited several great schools and met many more wonderful people who shared their personal journey with us.

One of the schools we visited was Meeting Street Academy in Spartanburg, a small private school that exists to offer a world-class education to students living in areas of great economic challenge. In addition to challenging academics and high expectations, they cultivate strong parental involvement and teach children the character traits that translate to success not only in

school, but in life. I'll never forget one single mother I met at Meeting Street Academy. This mother works long hours to make ends meet and shared that she was offered a job transfer that would have meant a raise. But with emotion in her voice, she told me she turned it down, because in her words:

*That* is the "why" behind what we do: so that children from every background can access the opportunity of an excellent education...regardless of their zip code.

With your help, Palmetto Policy Forum will continue to be a voice for parents like this Spartanburg mom who simply want the best possible education for their child. Together, let's commit to remember that the potential of each South Carolina child is why what we do matters. And let's renew our courage to stand boldly for them.

Yours in Freedom,

Ellen Weaver

P.S. - What's *YOUR* story? We'd love to hear from you about what education has meant to you or your family. [Let us hear from you!](#)

## The #UnAffordableCareAct in SC

Since our first day as an organization, PPF has sounded the alarm about the dire consequences of Obamacare on the very people it was supposed to "help." Unfortunately, it's all coming true before our very eyes. Remember when the President promised we could keep our insurance if we liked it? Well, now millions of Americans - including hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians - are losing theirs. A recent [NBC News investigation](#) featured the story of one South Carolina mom:

*"...Heather Goldwater, 38, of South Carolina, is raising a new baby while running her own PR firm. She said she received a letter last July from Cigna, her insurance company, that said the company would no longer offer her individual plan, and promised to send a letter by October offering a comparable option. So far, she hasn't received anything.*

*"I'm completely overwhelmed with a six-month-old and a business," said Goldwater. "The last thing I can do is spend hours poring over a website that isn't working, trying to wrap my head*

*around this entire health care overhaul.*

As more and more people learn the real truth of Obamacare, Palmetto Policy Forum will continue to educate on common sense, conservative health reforms that put patients in charge, lower costs, focus on health (not just having an insurance card) and protect the doctor-patient relationship. Stay tuned!

## PALMETTO POLICY FORUM'S FIRST ANNUAL

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*Palmetto Policy Forum is an independent, nonpartisan educational foundation committed to policy entrepreneurship, consensus-building and transformative solutions to South Carolina's policy challenges.*

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