

**From:** Schimsa, Rebecca  
**To:** Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>  
**Date:** 11/12/2013 4:56:24 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Ethics Reform Talking Points - also attached

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You must have been left off Rachel's original email.

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**From:** Patel, Swati  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2013 4:54 PM  
**To:** Schimsa, Rebecca  
**Subject:** Re: Ethics Reform Talking Points - also attached

Send to Veldran too

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**From:** Schimsa, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2013 04:48 PM  
**To:** Patel, Swati; Card, Rachel; Priester, Nicole  
**Cc:** Mayer, Doug; Pitts, Ted  
**Subject:** RE: Ethics Reform Talking Points - also attached

Edited version below with Swati's revisions.

## **SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

### **I. Open and refer to Visuals:**

#### Opening

- As the start of another legislative session approaches, it is time that we remember where we left off this summer.
- The House passed a strong ethics reform bill, and the Senate - after working hard to get a good proposal to the floor - stalled, placed over 100 amendments on the desk, and left the bill in debate on the last days of session.
- The people of South Carolina do not deserve to wait any longer. Today, I begin my push for Ethics Reform once again. I will be going around the State from now until Session starts to talk about the importance of Ethics Reform. And I look forward to standing with legislators from both sides of the aisle as I come to their districts.

#### Facts

- South Carolina still has an F on a Corruption Risk Report Card (by Center for Public Integrity) and our state is still only one of four states to not require public officials to disclose private sources of income.
- Next January, the legislature needs to pass an ethics reform bill.

*\*\*\*Visuals: (1) "F" Corruption Risk Report Card; and (2) Map of USA with only Four States not shaded ("46 States have Private Income Disclosure – South Carolina is not one of them").*

### **II. Remind the Public about where we came from – The McMaster-Medlock Commission**

Commission, in general

- Over the past year, several proposals have been put forth from groups both inside and outside of the Statehouse.
- However, no proposal has been stronger or gone farther in improving our state's ethics laws than the 23 Recommendations proposed by the South Carolina Commission on Ethics Reform, known as the McMaster-Medlock Commission.

#### Specific Proposals

- The Commission's proposals, which I have fully endorsed, include requiring an independent, impartial ethics commission to investigate all executive and legislative officials, which would keep the entire oversight process open and transparent.
- The Commission also proposes strengthening conflicts of interest laws to require the disclosure of private income and clarifying election and campaign finance laws.
- The McMaster-Medlock Commission is the blueprint for an ethics reform bill, and it is the gold standard for true ethics reform in South Carolina.

### **III. Remind the Public about where we are now – H.3945 and the Working Group Amendment**

#### H.3945, in general

- Although it is not as strong as the McMaster-Medlock recommendations, we have a good bill up for debate on the Senate floor.
- Under the leadership of Senators Campsen, Hayes, and Larry Martin and Representatives Quinn, James Smith, Bannister, Bingham, and Murrell Smith and others, H.3945 has passed the House and has made progress in the Senate.
- We have vetted this bill time and time again.
- The House appointed a Study Committee, the Senate appointed a Select Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, alone, debated the details of this bill for over eight hours.
- This is a good bill. Sure, there are things I would like to see strengthened, but with most things, we have to work together – both branches, both chambers, both sides of the aisle – to get something done.

#### Working Group Amendment

- A bipartisan group of Senators which included Senator Campsen – known as the Working Group – has created an amendment that can take this bill across the finish line.
- The Working Group Amendment creates an independent commission for investigating ethics complaints – an integral part of a McMaster-Medlock recommendation; expands income disclosures to include all sources of private income for our legislators – another McMaster-Medlock recommendation; strengthens criminal penalties for violations of the Ethics Act – another McMaster-Medlock recommendation; among other things.

### **IV. Remind the Public about where we have to go – H.3945 must pass the Senate and go through Conference**

- I am proud of the work we have done to strengthen H.3945.
- I look forward to working with the Senate and the House to pass this bill during the first weeks of session get it to my desk for signature.

## V. Close and Call to Action:

- I never forget that the people created our government and that the government works for the people.
  - Anything we can do to restore the public's trust in its government, we must do.
  - Signing an ethics reform package into law would be a historic measure that the citizens of our state have not seen in decades.
  - I urge you to call your Senator, call your House member, and show your support for ethics reform.
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### Possible Speakers / Attendees (confirmed as of 4:45 p.m. Tuesday):

- Nikki Haley, Governor
- Henry McMaster, Former Republican Attorney General and Co-Chairman of the SC Commission on Ethics Reform
- Travis Medlock, Former Democratic Attorney General and Co-Chairman of the SC Commission on Ethics Reform
- Legislators:
  - Chip Campsen, Senator
  - Katrina Shealy, Senator
  - Ralph Kennedy, Rep.
  - Rick Quinn, Rep.
  - Mac Toole, Rep.
  - Larry Martin, Chairman
- Stakeholder Groups:
  - Lynn Teague, League of Women Voters
  - Teresa Arnold, AARP
  - Dana Beach, SC Coastal Conservation League

\*\*\*If individuals do not speak, they will need to be recognized for being present. An index card with names and organizations will be prepared prior to the event.