


LUTHERAN
SERVICES

C A R O L I N A S

January 18, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201-3740

Dear Governor Haley:

As president of Lutheran Services Carolinas, I try to avoid political issues and concentrate on improving the lives of the vulnerable people served by our ministry. But today I also feel a responsibility to be a voice for those we serve.

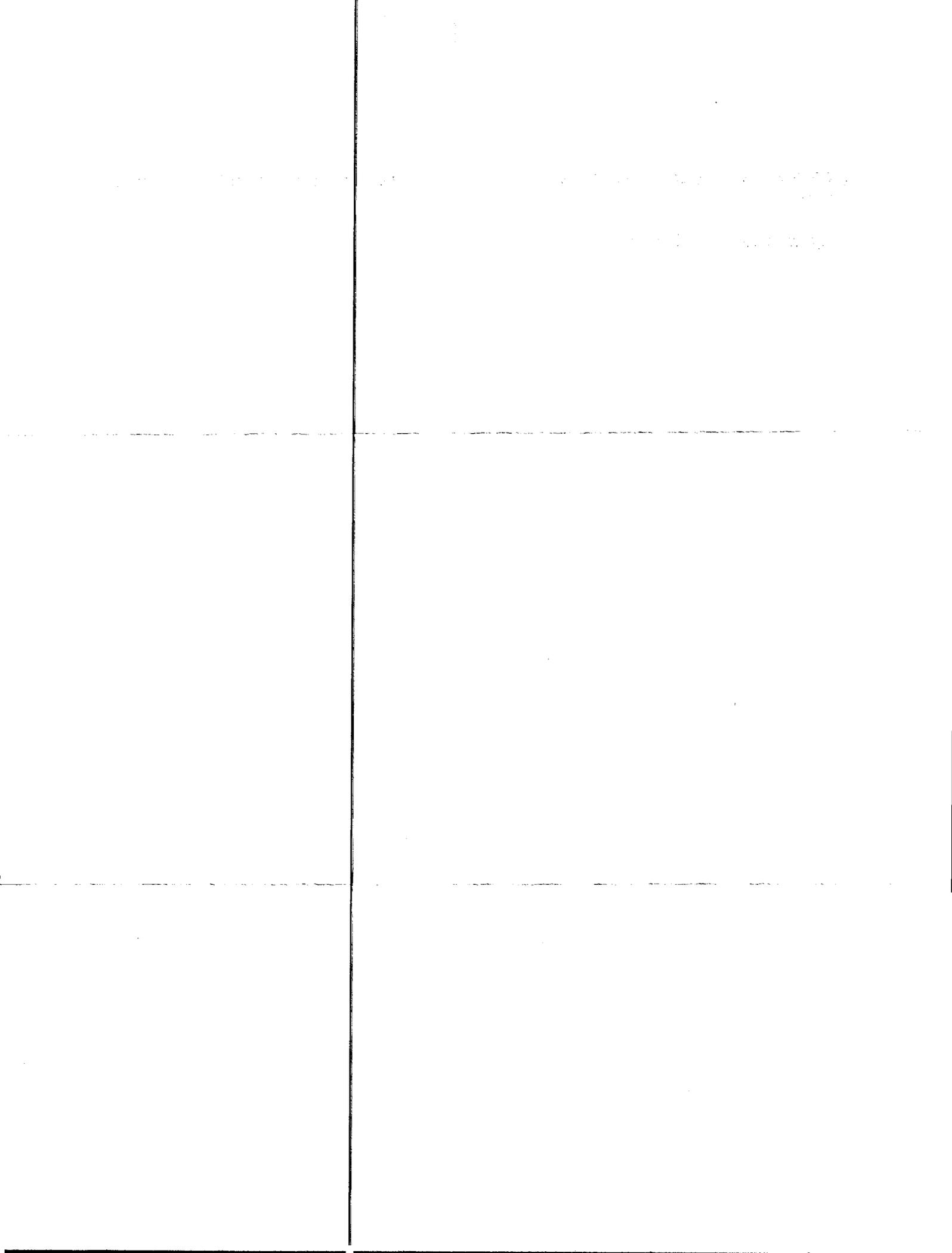
I respectfully ask for your support in opposing two bills recently brought before the South Carolina General Assembly, S.928 and S.997. This legislation is unnecessary and will only promote fear of all refugees.

The systems needed to provide for the safe resettlement of refugees are already in place. The United States refugee resettlement program has a sophisticated and multi-layered approach to vetting refugees before they enter our country. LSC is now providing services to refugees in South Carolina, refugees who were screened by the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and others while waiting years in refugee camps for resettlement.

The reality is that these refugees have experienced unspeakable violence, war, and persecution. They are fleeing terror, not causing it.

Over the last ten years, LSC Refugee Services has served about 1,500 newly resettled refugees. None of these refugees has ever been involved with or charged with any unlawful activity. They are hardworking taxpayers with employers who can testify to their work ethic, dedication, and gratitude. Others are successful small business owners and professionals who are making a positive impact on the communities where they live and work.

Thousands of volunteers from throughout South Carolina, many from churches of various denominations, welcomed and supported these refugees. They have helped these refugees set up housekeeping and they have shared meals. They have helped refugees enroll their children in school and taught them how to use public transportation and how to shop at a



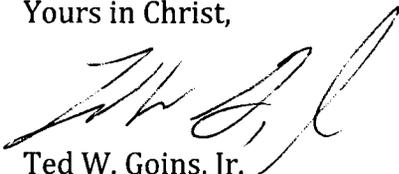
grocery store. They have helped them learn English, how to write a check, and how to cross a street.

They have befriended them.

That is what we must do to stem the tide of fear. We cannot and should not reject the needs of deserving refugees seeking protection. We must stand for welcome.

Thank you for your service, and I am available to discuss our refugee services and this legislation with you at any time.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted W. Goins, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Ted W. Goins, Jr.
President