



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

April 13, 2016

Ms. Alicia Mullen Gregory
35 Broughton Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

Dear Ms. Gregory,

Thank you for your kind words of support regarding the initiative to fund additional prosecutors and end the practice of law enforcement officer prosecutions of domestic violence cases in magistrate and municipal courts, a practice that only exists in three states, including ours. The House has fully funded the domestic violence initiative so now we look to the Senate, which will take up the budget next week.

No one can doubt that South Carolina has a culture of domestic violence, evidenced by our state's ranking of first highest in the nation for the rate of women killed by men, which follows previous top ten rankings each year for the past ten years. As governor, and more importantly as a wife and mother, this ranking is troubling and sad on so many levels.

In January of 2015, I established the South Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force for the purpose of identifying and addressing systemic problems within our criminal justice system, the services we provide to victims and offenders, and the education, awareness, and outreach that we bring to our communities. County by county, the Task Force is analyzing the quality and quantity of training, services, and resources to ensure that every part of South Carolina is lifted up through this effort.

To date, the Task Force issued 50 Recommendations that address specific problems and propose specific solutions to cultural issues surrounding domestic violence in South Carolina. This year, I have already announced that 11 of those recommendations have been implemented, and more are to come. Information about the Task Force's ongoing work can be viewed on my office's website, www.governor.sc.gov.

Whether through changes in policy, law, or funding, the leaders of South Carolina will continue making domestic violence a priority. I believe that if we tackle domestic violence together, as Team South Carolina, then we can make every home in our state a safer home for our men, women, and children. Once again, thank you for contacting me. God bless.

My very best,


Nikki R. Haley

NRH/rs


Thanks
Alicia.