



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

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Legislative Audit Council
1331 Elmwood Avenue
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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the important role that you play in the review of state agencies that enables the General Assembly can make informed policy decisions. I have had the opportunity during my service in Columbia to become closely familiar with the operations and procedures of certain state agencies, including the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW).

I acquired an historical knowledge and understanding of DEW while serving as a primary legislator involved in its transformation from the Employment Security Commission. Senator Greg Ryberg, then-chairman of the LCI Committee, appointed me as subcommittee chairman to review legislation and other key subject matter dealing with the agency. I worked with LAC and conducted hearings on the findings and recommendations of your previous audits of DEW. LAC served as a vital partner, and the General Assembly acted on its findings to ensure a successful transformation.

I, and I believe many other legislators, enjoy a new level of comfort with the performance of agency and especially with its leadership, Director Cheryl Stanton. The agency has turned an approximately half-billion dollar debt to the federal government into an approximately three-quarters of a billion dollar positive balance in the trust fund. The agency simultaneously cut unemployment taxes to South Carolina businesses in five consecutive years. This alone has saved them an estimated seven-hundred million dollars. Our unemployment rate, moreover, hovers at its lowest in nearly two decades. South Carolina is now a national model for workforce agencies both in its effectiveness in serving our veteran population and in forming certified work-ready communities. I now rarely receive constituent calls about DEW, whereas when I began my service the calls were constant and not pleasant.

Thank you for soliciting my input for the current LAC study of DEW. My main focus as a public servant is the prosperity of taxpayers, businesses owners and our workforce. I am confident in the current operations and focus of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. I also am confident that your work should take less time and be of less trouble than in the past when cooperation and information were less forthcoming. I look forward to your findings, and please call upon me or my office if we can be of further service.

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin L. Bryant".

Kevin L. Bryant
Lieutenant Governor

KLB/da