



Title: **Stateagencyissuing morefines against three abortion clinics**  
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## PLANNED PARENTHOOD

# State agency issuing more fines against three abortion clinics

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA

South Carolina's public health agency is issuing fines that could amount to nearly \$51,000 against three abortion clinics and two waste disposal companies for violations concerning the disposal of fetuses.

The proposed fines range from \$2,200 to \$21,150 for violating state disposal regulations, Department of Health and Environmental Control Director Catherine Heigel told a House panel Thursday.

They are the latest fines stemming from an investigation requested by Gov. Nikki Haley in August. The request followed the release of secretly taped videos showing Planned Parenthood officials in other states discussing the collection of fetal organs for research.

Less than a month later, DHEC suspended the licenses of two of the state's three abor-

tion clinics and fined them a combined \$10,250. The threatened closures marked a first for the agency. Ultimately, sanctions were lifted and neither clinic had to close.

Violations cited in the five consent orders dated Friday include paperwork issues and fetuses being sterilized with steam and taken to a landfill, rather than incinerated as required by law – issues also cited in the clinics' suspensions. The lowest proposed fine is against the Charleston Women's Medical Center – not among suspended clinics – for not accurately reporting the amount of waste it generates on its registration renewal.

The proposed orders give 30 days to pay a fine, but they note the amounts are under discussion. According to the agency, the largest fine would be against Planned Parenthood.

Jenny Black, regional president of Planned Parenthood, said she's

"surprised and dismayed" to learn about the proposed amount through a legislative hearing.

"No monetary amount related to a penalty was mentioned" in the order, Black said, adding the organization will continue to cooperate fully with DHEC. "We hold ourselves to high standards and take swift action to address any shortcomings."

GOP Rep. Gary Clary, chairman of the House Oversight panel, applauded Heigel for "tightening up" on inspections. His committee launched its own investigation into Planned Parenthood following the videos' release. Republican legislators have criticized DHEC as being too lax with the abortion clinics.

A report released by the Legislative Audit Council in May found the agency hadn't consistently inspected the clinics as

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## ABORTION

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required by law and had imposed no penalties for violations, with the exception of an expired license.

Heigel, who took the DHEC's helm a month later, said Thursday the agency has better trained staff and changed how inspections are conducted.

"We are substantially better positioned to effectively regulate these facilities," she said. "At the end of the day, our role as regulator is to protect the health and safety of patients who use these facil-

ities."

Rep. James Smith, D-Columbia, said the investigations have found nothing illegal or even

close to the allegations that prompted the Oversight Committee to launch its own review.

"They've raised their level of scrutiny," Smith said of DHEC after Heigel's arrival. "But the bottom line is, not one iota of what was alleged has been proven true."

As for the Sept. 11 suspension orders, DHEC lifted sanctions Sept. 28

against the Greenville Women's Clinic after it addressed its six violations, paid a \$2,750 fine and submitted proof of staff training. Planned Parenthood paid a \$7,500 penalty for 21 cited violations and submitted correction plans

by the Sept. 28 deadline but asked DHEC to reconsider some of the violations, putting the suspension on hold. The cited violations included incomplete staff records and abortions performed sooner than 60 minutes after an ultrasound.

DHEC cleared Planned Parenthood's Columbia clinic on Nov. 6, and the organization withdrew its request, Heigel said.

Representatives of the other two clinics and the disposal companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Planned Parenthood officials have repeatedly said none of the organization's clinics in the South Atlantic region – which includes the Carolinas, West Virginia and much of Virginia – participates in fetal tissue collection.

Title: **Gas tax advocates face new \$1.2 billion hurdle**  
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## ROADS

# Gas tax advocates face new \$1.2 billion hurdle

**Extra money in the state budget – not higher taxes – should be spent on roads, some lawmakers argue**

**Long-term solution, not dependence on one-time surpluses, is answer, gas tax advocates say**

**Extra money in state budget shows S.C. can afford an income tax cut, Gov. Nikki Haley says**

BY CASSIE COPE

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COLUMBIA

Efforts to raise the state's gas tax to pay for road repairs suffered perhaps a fatal setback last week when South Carolina lawmakers found out they will have \$1.2 billion in added money to spend next year.

Momentum to raise the tax had been building since early October, when more than 2 feet of rain drenched portions of the state, washing out and damaging 541 roads and bridges.

However, the \$1.2 billion added to the state's budget last week will fuel the arguments of conservative lawmakers who say the state's surpluses and growing revenues can pay for road repairs without a tax increase.

Advocates of a higher gas tax say it's not realistic to put all \$1.2 billion toward the cost of road repairs. Other causes –

flood damages, rural schools, the funding needs of state agencies cut during the Great Recession –

will lay claim to some of that money, they say. And, they add, a onetime \$1.2 billion windfall will not address the state's long-term road needs – estimated to cost up to an added \$1.5 billion a year for the next 30 years.

To get a long-term road repair solution, lawmakers will have to strike a deal on three issues – raising the state's gas tax, cutting its income tax rates and reforming the state Transportation Department.

"It's going to be difficult, but I don't think it's impossible," said state Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield. But to make a deal, a lot of lawmakers will have to move considerably in their positions on the three issues, he added.

Meanwhile, any deal may be delayed until after

March 30, the deadline for challengers to file to run against sitting House and Senate members next fall.

## HOW TO SPEND \$1.2 BILLION DOLLARS?

When senators return to Columbia in January, a proposed gas tax hike will be waiting for them.

"There's a plan still set for special order in the Senate, so we'll take that up," said Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, adding, "I'm sure there will be tons of amendments to it."

In an effort to block a vote, some senators could add up to 100 amendments to the proposal, said Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence.

But, he added, the Senate needs to address the issue. "I want to work with our members to get a road funding package passed."

That state needs a re-

curring source of revenue to repair and improve its highway system, said Leatherman. "I'm not interested in going to the general fund," the state's \$7.7 billion operating budget.

But some conservative lawmakers – led by state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort – will want to do just that, using the added \$1.2 billion on road repairs.

Last spring, Davis filibustered a gas tax hike during the last three weeks of the legislative session, arguing lawmakers should spend the state's savings and surpluses on road repairs, not raise taxes. Davis' filibuster blocked senators from debating the roads bill. Instead, lawmakers agreed to send \$216.4 million in surplus money to counties for road repairs.

As floodwaters ravaged South Carolina last month,

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destroying roads and bridges, Davis said South Carolinians could see the need for more money for roads, hinting he could moderate his opposition to

a gas tax hike. Now, however, after the floodwaters have receded, Davis wants to use the \$1.2 billion added last week to the state's budget for roads.

But other lawmakers say some of that added money will be needed to pay flood damages and increase the budgets of state agencies, cut during the

Great Recession and never restored.

State Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, said more

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## ROADS

money for K-12 education, the Department of Social Services, higher education and vulnerable seniors will need to come from the added \$1.2 billion.

For example, there is a \$500 million deficit between the amount that legislators now are funding K-12 schools and the amount state law says those schools should get.

"It would be irresponsible to think that we could fund our roads problem with economic growth," Lourie said, adding roads projects need to be planned and paid for over years.

Republican Massey agreed. "It's important that you have a dependable and dedicated funding stream going to roads and bridges."

### 'STRENGTHENED PUSH FOR INCOME TAX RELIEF'

Lourie said the flooding that devastated parts of his Richland County district last month shows how important it is for the state to have solid infrastructure.

"Our roads and bridges were in poor shape to begin with and, now, many of them are even worse," he said.

But Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said Friday that paying flooding costs should be separated as an issue from finding a long-term road funding solution.

"The dangerous thing that can happen in government is when you start to combine one issue with the other," Haley said. "These are two separate issues and should be treated separately."

Last year, critics ripped Haley for combining two issues – saying she would approve a gas tax increase if legislators passed a larger income tax cut. In her State of the State address in January, Haley proposed cutting the state's top income tax rate to a 5 percent from 7 percent over a 10-year period.

Haley's proposal went nowhere.

But now, said Republican Massey, the added \$1.2 billion means "there will be a renewed and strengthened push for income tax relief" when senators debate how to raise money for roads.

After Haley's plan collapsed, Massey and Republican state senators introduced a plan to raise \$700 million a year for roads, largely by increasing the gas tax, and also cut income taxes by about \$700 million.

Republican senators hoped to win over Haley with their tax-cut proposal – reducing the highest income tax rate by 1 percentage point to 6 percent.

The Republican senators' plan was contingent on the state's general fund revenues growing by 1

percent a year before either the gas tax increases or income tax cuts would kick in. "We really were trying to do this in a responsible manner so we're not going to put the state in jeopardy of financial problems," Massey said.

But Haley said Friday she is not willing to sign on to the Senate GOP plan. The Republican governor said she still wants a 2 percentage-point cut in the state's income taxes, adding the \$1.2 billion in added money means the state can afford it.

"I will stay at the 2 percent (age points) until they give me reason to go below that."

### 'SHORT-SIGHTED REGIONALISM AND POLITICAL HORSE TRADING'

The Transportation Department says it needs

an additional \$1.5 billion a year to repair, maintain and expand the state's highways. If lawmakers fully funded that request from the general fund it would eat up all of the added \$1.2 billion and then some.

Repairing, preserving and modernizing the existing roads system will cost an added \$1 billion a year, the agency says. That's do-able with the added \$1.2 billion – for

one year. Where the money would come from in year 2 is unknown.

Some argue far less than \$1.5 billion a year is needed. They say if the structure of the Transportation Department – now governed by a legislatively controlled commission – is reformed, it would eliminate waste and political influence in how money is spent, saving money.

Haley advocated abolishing that commission in her January State of the State speech. Getting rid of the commission would make it "so the condition of South Carolina's roads is no longer driven by short-sighted regionalism and political horse trading, and we stop wasting our tax money," she said.

In their plans, Republicans, who control the House and Senate, propose giving the governor control of the Transportation Department, allowing the governor to appoint all Transportation Department commissioners, who then would select an executive to head the roads agency.

That restructuring plan passed the House earlier this year as part of a proposal to increase gas taxes, raising \$427 million a year more for road repairs. But some Senate leaders vehemently oppose the restructuring.

### FILING DEADLINE A FACTOR



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One final factor will weigh into whether the Legislature passes a long-term roads plan next year – election-year politics.

The March 30 deadline to file to run for the House and Senate loom over senators and representatives who are waiting to see if they will have primary challengers.

Tax increases never are popular, especially for Republicans, said Win-

throp University political scientist Karen Kedrowski. “Republicans that support tax increases do face potential challengers from the right,” she said.

In South Carolina, where legislative districts are heavily gerrymandered so that one party can dominate the results, many legislators fear most a challenge in their own party’s primary, she said.

Even if lawmakers see

the need for a gas tax hike, they may not want to go out on a limb – and risk losing re-election – until after March 30.

State Rep. Gary Simrill, a 12-term York Republican, said he never looks at filing deadlines to determine whether he acts on an issue. But some lawmakers do, he acknowledged.

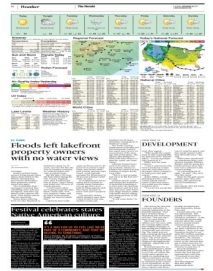
Simrill, who supports increasing the gas tax,

contends lawmakers could face more challengers if they do not pass a roads plan.

Voters want the state’s roads repaired, he said. “You’re elected to be a leader, and you’re elected to make things happen.”

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Title: **Festivalcelebrates states' NativeAmerican culture**  
 Author: BY ERINSHAW The (Columbia)State  
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# Festival celebrates states' Native American culture

BY ERIN SHAW  
 The (Columbia) State

Thunderous drumming and chanting as well as Native Americans in full regalia drew crowds to Cayce on Saturday for the 15th Native American Cherokee Trail River Festival.

Participants in clothing decorated with feathers, beads and bells entertained audiences with dances, songs and stories of Native American heritage in a grassy area in front of the Cayce Historical Museum.

The festival was presented by the city of Cayce and the Circle of Native Americans, a non-profit group dedicated to

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**IT'S A WAY FOR US TO FEEL LIKE WE'RE PART OF A COMMUNITY, AND THAT WE BELONG TO SOMETHING.**

*Marcy Hayden, the program coordinator of Native American affairs for the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs*

educating people about the culture and heritage of Native Americans.

“It's a way for us to feel like we're part of a community, and that we belong to something,” said Marcy Hayden, the program coordinator of Native American affairs for the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs.

Hayden, who has Native American ancestry, was selling native-inspired jewelry and dreamcatchers, which she has been making since she was 11 and has recently turned into a side business.

Hayden also spoke to the crowd about a proclamation from Gov. Nikki Haley declaring Novem-

ber Native American Heritage month in South Carolina and Nov. 18 as South Carolina's Native American Heritage Day.

At least 29 distinct Native American groups once lived in South Carolina. Today that number is much smaller, but there are still many descendants of Cherokee, hence the festival's name.

Andy Spell, chief of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso tribe based in Ridgeville, led a group in Southern style Native American drumming and singing. His tribe is descended from the Natchez and Kusso Indians, who are recorded as living in the state as early as 1577, according to the tribe's website.

Spell said the Cayce festival has grown over the years.

“It's crucial to helping people understand our culture.”



Title: **Storm reveals dam problem**  
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## Storm reveals dam problem

It is no secret to residents of South Carolina that this state has an infrastructure problem. All of us are well acquainted with the sometimes awful condition of the state's roads. That is a problem created and exacerbated by a tremendous deficit in state highway funding; a deficit lawmakers repeatedly have been reluctant to bridge.

Last month's torrential rain event in the Midlands — a disaster confusingly referred to as a 1,000-year rain — laid bare another life-threatening infrastructure problem. In the wake of that storm, it became apparent that the state's network of 2,400 regulated dams is not inspected frequently enough and the staff that's called on to inspect those dams is far too small.

Thirty-two of those dams failed in last month's rain that dropped 2 feet of water on parts of the state.

In a detailed report last week, Greenville News investigative reporter Rick Brundrett revealed the state's Department of Health and Environmental Control has only 6.75 employee positions dedicated to inspecting all of South Carolina's regulated dams. No doubt the gap in inspections was exacerbated by the fact that staffing has been even lower in recent years: In 2005, there were only 1.5 full-time positions for the dam inspection program.

The state's dam safety office is one of the most poorly funded in the nation, and in 2014 had a budget of \$260,000, according to a report in *The State*. In 2014-15, funding was \$453,000.

This is not a problem created by our current governor or even many of our current lawmakers. But it is a symptom of a state that rushes to cut taxes without taking time to study potential consequences.

What are the consequences? Of 75 dams that are under emergency repair orders issued in the wake of last month's floods, at least a dozen hadn't been inspected in the past five years or more, Brundrett reported.

The national model calls for dam inspections every year for Class One dams, those that pose the greatest risk if they fail, every two years for the next class of dams, and every five years for those that pose the least risk. In South Carolina, the standard is to inspect Class One and Two dams every two and three years, respectively.

None of this data includes the potentially thousands of unregulated dams in this state that go uninspected.

If there is one positive, it is that last month's rains have opened the state's eyes to the problem.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Nikki Haley acknowledged there's a funding gap and said that Gov. Haley will include more money for the state's dam safety program in her upcoming executive budget. Spokeswoman Chaney Adams also conceded that it's very early in the process.

Haley and the Legislature need to take this problem seriously when they address the budget next year. Unfortunately, they need to add it to a list of things this state needs to take seriously.

Year after year, this state's leaders talk about cutting taxes. This year, they're going to need to face the music and begin talking about increasing spending — and perhaps taxes — to ensure the infrastructure in this state is safe and contributes to, rather than hinders, the well-being of our fellow South Carolinians.

— Nov. 8, *The Greenville News*

Title: **Clemson tops in state plane use**  
 Author: RON BARNETT RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
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# Clemson tops in state plane use

RON BARNETT

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Clemson spent more money on air travel than the governor and the Department of Commerce combined during the first half of 2015, according to state Aeronautics Commission records.

Of the 130 trips the plane logged for Clemson between January and July, it had no passengers on 65 of them as it traveled from one location to another, often from Columbia to Clemson, to pick up passengers, the records show.

Frequent fliers for Clemson include

## Plane

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 car travel."

There were no trips logged by the University of South Carolina or any other institution of higher education during the period.

According to *The Greenville News* analysis of the flight logs, Clemson spent \$133,140 on use of the state plane between Jan. 1 and the end of October this year.

During the same time period, Gov. Nikki Haley's office spent \$75,070, and the Department of Commerce spent \$49,635, records show.

The only other users that hit five figures were the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the state Ports Authority, the Aeronautics Commission and state Rep. John King.

Unlike the governor, legislators and most state agencies who list details for the purpose of their trips on flight manifests, Clemson officials give the reason for all their flights only as "Official Clemson University business."

Sams said that's how the Aeronautics Commission requested the logs be filled out.

Clemson hasn't always been a big user of the state plane.

In a search of Aeronautics Commission records going back to 2006, Clemson's first logged trips were in October 2011, with trips by assistant football coaches Jeff Scott and Marion Hobby to Jacksonville and Tampa, Florida, and then-President Jim Barker making a trip to Charleston with then-vice president John Kelly.

Prior to February 2011, Clemson

athletics director Dan Radakovich, who made trips to Charleston and to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, with his wife, Marcia, President Jim Clements, football coach Dabo Swinney and other athletics department employees and academic administrators.

Most of the flights were in-state, but the log includes trips to destinations such as Cincinnati, Tuscaloosa, Tampa and Louisville.

Clemson spokeswoman Cathy Sams

said use of the university plane was deemed to be the most cost-effective mode of travel for busy university officials.

"Air travel allows us to minimize travel time and maximize productivity of administrators who have very demanding schedules," she said. "Because of our location, a meeting in Columbia can consume an entire day with

**See PLANE, Page 9A**

owned two planes — one bought with private funds by the athletic department and an older one generally used for other university official travel, Sams said.

"In 2011, after a thorough cost analysis, a decision was made to sell the older plane rather than incur substantial costs for refurbishing or replacing it," she said. "Instead, the university would charter planes when the athletic plane was not available or was down for maintenance."

Clemson and other state agencies have been encouraged to use state air-planes to help the state recover the cost of its fleet, Sams said. The state charges agencies such as Clemson a set rate for usage of the state plane. Clemson pays this charge to the state each time it uses the state plane, she said.

The flight logs indicate "user reimbursed."

The cost for trips by academic officials are reimbursed by the academic departments, which may include use of public funds for official university business, Sams said.

"No state appropriated funds are used for travel, as they are all allocated for faculty salaries," she said. "Fundraising trips are paid for with private funds, and all athletics trips are funded through revenues generated by the department."

Between 2006 and 2011, few state agencies used the plane, according to the records. Most of the flights were logged by the governor, the Department of Commerce and various legislators.

The Medical University of South Carolina made use of the plane during that

period but has not in the past few years.

Wives of high profile university employees such as Clements and Swinney sometimes fly in the state plane for university functions, Sams said.

"Mrs. Clements is frequently asked to help host official out-of-town events and fundraising activities," she said. "Because of family responsibilities such as having a teenage child living at home, and scheduling, she occasionally must travel separately. These flights are handled according to board-approved policies."

"Mrs. Swinney also is asked to participate in alumni and fundraising activities as well as official athletics events," Sams said. "At times spouse participation is requested by donors, the ACC or post-season game event managers."

Clemson logged no trips on the state plane in October, after the athletics department bought a new plane, Sams said.

"Now that the athletic department has purchased a second plane, we expect our usage of state planes to decline," she said.

Much of the travel logged by Clements has been related to the university's \$1 billion capital campaign, *The Will to Lead*, Sams said.

"President and Mrs. Clements are heavily involved in fundraising activities, and we have had back-to-back record years for private giving since his arrival," she said. Clements became president at the end of 2013.

Clements also has responsibilities nationally in several higher education organizations, including as chairman of the



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Author: RON BARNETT RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
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board for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, Sams said. He is also a member of the executive board of the American Council on Education, co-chair of the U.S. Commerce Department's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and is a member of the Business Higher Education Forum and the Council on Competitiveness, she said. "These appointments have helped raise Clemson's national profile and opened doors for external funding," she said. The university has policies intended to assure that flights are made for business purposes only, Sams said.





Title: **More money sought for dam inspections**  
 Author: SAMMY FRETWELL SFRETWELL@THESTATE.COM  
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# More money sought for dam inspections

**SAMMY FRETWELL**

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The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control wants to bolster its beleaguered dam safety program with more money and more staff following floods last month that reignited concerns about the program's effectiveness.

In its budget request for next year, DHEC is asking to roughly double the size of its dam safety staff as part of an overall program increase of \$595,000.

If approved, the dam safety program would be as large, if not larger, than it has been during the past 20 years. The proposal includes hiring six full-time engineers and an environmental health manager, spokeswoman Jennifer Read said in an email. She said the agency now has 6.75 dam safety employees.

DHEC is charged with inspecting and overseeing 2,370 dams across the state. But in recent years, inspectors haven't always examined the dams as frequently as needed because the dam safety program is so small. Without inspections and oversight, the state doesn't always know about shaky dams that threaten property downstream.

Read said the plan to increase staffing would bring the program up to "existing statutory and regulatory requirements."

But the agency also is working with Gov. Nikki Haley and lawmakers on legislation to further strengthen the dam safety program with more money. That money could come from general appropriations, inspection fees or both, Read's email said.

Read did not provide details of the plan. But state Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, said some of the legislative changes under discussion include providing more clarity on the responsibilities of those who own dams and how they are to maintain the structures. The majority of dams in South Carolina are privately owned, many by homeowners groups that DHEC director Catherine Heigel says are not always well organized.

"We have learned some hard lessons from this recent flooding," said Smith, who chairs the budget subcommittee that will hear DHEC's request for more money. "It's incumbent upon us to make sure we have appropriate enforcement and inspection mechanisms as it relates to dams. We see the catastrophic damage that (failed dams) can do to the surrounding area."

DHEC's dam program has in recent years ranked as one of the most poorly funded in the country, according to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. For years, the program's budget hovered around \$200,000

or less, although DHEC says the budget is currently about \$469,000.

*The State* newspaper chronicled many of the problems with the dam safety program in a 2011 story. The spotlight again focused on the program last month, when about three dozen dams broke across South Carolina following a massive rainfall. Those broken dams included at least six in the Gills Creek watershed of Columbia, home to more than 100,000 people. The October flood damaged homes, destroyed cars, washed out intersections and sent many people fleeing for higher ground.

Cary Chamblee, who formerly oversaw the dam safety program for the S.C. Land Resources Commission, said he's encouraged that DHEC wants to bring its program up to standard. But he said he'd like to know if the new jobs will be dedicated full-time to dam safety. Land Resources ran the program until dam safety was transferred to DHEC in the mid-1990s by the Legislature. At DHEC, some dam safety employees have had other duties.

Despite questions about the adequacy of South Carolina's program, state Rep. Jimmy Bales said he has reservations about increasing the budget. Bales said he has received complaints from some Lower Richland dam owners about zealous enforcement by DHEC since the storm. He serves with Smith on the legislative subcommittee that will review DHEC's budget request.

"The committee is going to be sort of diligent," Bales, D-Richland, said. "We're not going to turn (DHEC) loose with a bunch of people that don't know what they are doing and demand all this stuff. If we don't give them a whole bunch of money, they can't do this."

Still, if DHEC had employed more inspectors in the recent past, South Carolina might have been able to prevent some of the failures of dams that occurred during the October storm, said Mark Ogden, the project manager with the Association of State Dam Safety Officials.

"The fact they had not kept up with their inspection schedule and other things, it's pretty clear they needed additional staff," Ogden said Wednesday.

The request for the budget year that starts July 1 notes that DHEC will need to reclassify some dams that are now considered low hazard to significant or high hazard dams because of their proximity to populated areas.

Title: **Clyburn renews Medicaid call**

Author:

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## LOCAL / STATE

### Clyburn renews Medicaid call

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn has renewed his call to expand Medicaid in South Carolina, saying equal access to health care is a problem that is "almost criminal." *The Post and Courier* of Charleston reports the congressman made the comments Thursday at the start of a conference on health disparities in minority communities. Clyburn called on Gov. Nikki Haley to expand Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act. He estimated 700,000 people statewide still have no health insurance even after the federal law helped reduce the number of uninsured nationwide by about 5 million. South Carolina and 19 other states have not expanded Medicaid. It already covers more than 1 million South Carolinians.

Title: **Former S.C. football players Lattimore, Boyd back flood-relief fund**  
Author:  
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## Former S.C. football players Lattimore, Boyd back flood-relief fund

Gov. Nikki Haley announced a flood-relief fund, One SC Fund, Monday that will raise money to help those affected by last month's flooding rebuild.

The effort is backed by a number of luminaries from South Carolina or who have called the state home, including former Gov. David Beasley, former Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd, TV host Stephen Colbert, former University of South Carolina running back Marcus Lattimore, singer Darius Rucker and USC women's basketball coach Dawn Staley.

"We are asking the people of South Carolina to step up today," Haley said.

Those who want to donate can visit [www.OneSCFund.org](http://www.OneSCFund.org).

Title: **A walkout for diversity**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
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## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PROTEST

# A walkout for diversity

Student group's demands include investigation of three administrators, more money for multicultural student affairs office

BY ANDREW SHAIN  
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A group of mostly black University of South Carolina students gathered Monday — outside a theater named after a former president of the college who defended slavery — to begin a march to tell the current president that they want more attention paid to diversity on campus.

Dressed in black, the protestors marched silently two-

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## USC

ty officer John Dozier and Student Affairs vice president Dennis Pruitt, said administrators would examine the demands. They offered no timetable. But, they said, some of the demands are being met in programs already adopted by the college.

"Change may not necessarily happen right around the corner," Dozier said.

The peaceful demonstration, which called for students to walk out of classes, was one of the largest protests on the campus of South Carolina's flagship university in recent years.

The protests follow efforts this year at Clemson University, led by black students, to change the name of that school's most prominent building, Tillman Hall, named after an avowed segregationist. The USC demonstration also came a week after protests by African-American students at the University

by-two, locked in arms from the Longstreet Theatre through the Horseshoe to

USC's administration building. There, they presented 12 demands to three university administrators.

"The future of USC is in your hands," said Clarie Randall, a biology/psychology major from Greenville as she handed the list to administrators.

of Missouri led that school's president to step down.

USC 2020 Vision organizers said the protest Monday was planned for months. They planned to demonstrate in January or February but moved up the event after the Missouri protest, said Nona Henderson, a business major from Greenville and spokeswoman for USC 2020 Vision.

"We're just taking our chance with it, because now is the best time," she said.

Turnout for the the protest could have been larger, organizers said, but they said they did not want to reveal their plans too far in advance. Word of the protest started spreading late Sunday.

During their meeting with administrators, Gabel offered to take representatives of the protestors inside the administration

The group, known as USC 2020 Vision, asked when school leaders would meet their demands, including expanded minority student and faculty recruitment efforts.

USC provost Joan Gabel, standing next to chief diversi-

**SEE USC, 7A**



**AT THESTATE.COM:** See video and more photos from Monday's protest.

building to speak on the phone with USC president Harris Pastides, who is attending a conference in Indianapolis. Protest leaders declined, saying they wanted conversations to remain public.

Administrators spent about a half-hour taking questions and listening to complaints from the students about threats against minorities, the loss of minority faculty members and minority student recruitment.

Aaron Greene, a senior majoring in public relations from Orangeburg, said the University of Wisconsin works with elementary-school-age minority students to encourage diversity.

"Why are you closing this door?" he asked administrators. "We need a proactive administration to attack these issues."

Spokeswomen for the protest group said several online at-

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tacks against African-American students have made them feel unsafe on campus but offered few specifics beyond citing comments on social media. After the protest, a spokeswoman for the protestors, Morgan Lewis, mentioned remarks posted on the social media app Yik Yak that allows anonymous comments.

Administrators suggested protestors file complaints about discriminatory incidents with an online form that the university provides.

USC 2020 Vision also asked that a town-hall meeting with Pastides to discuss diversity issues be held before the end of the fall semester, a request administrators said they would consider.

Protestors did not voice any complaints about Pastides. But their list of demands included called for independent investigations of three administrators.

The list of demands did not say why the three should be investigated. However, after the protest, Lewis, a junior from Blythewood, said the administrators have failed to foster diversity on campus.

USC 2020 Vision also demanded:

- Acknowledgment USC was built by slave labor during tours and on markers on campus
- Gender-neutral housing and restrooms, and comprehensive health and mental-health care for transgender students
- More money for the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
- Renaming the Office of Student Disability Services to

the Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services

- Faculty and staff receive mandatory diversity training

Henderson said the school fails to back up its claims on diversity.

About 10.5 percent of USC's student population is African American, ranking ninth-high-est among the state's 12 four-year colleges in the fall of 2014, according to the latest state data available. At 4.6 percent last year, USC ranked fourth among four-year schools in the number of full-time African-American faculty.

Both figures are well below the state's African-American population, which is 28 percent.

"I don't know how I'm supposed to feel at home. I don't know how I'm supposed to feel comfortable," Henderson said. "We're having all these conversations that are full of talk and no action."

USC said Monday that all new staffers have diversity training conducted by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. The university said also that it does have unisex restrooms on campus and addresses housing on a student-by-student basis.

USC leaders said they respect the protestors' efforts to bring change.

"Our president ... hears you loud and clear and is engaged with you," said Gabel, who started at USC in the fall after spending five years at the University of Missouri. "He affirms your right to be heard as does all the administration."

Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that she hopes protestors continue to air their grievances calmly.

"It's OK for people to be frustrated," Haley said. "The important part is that ... there has got to be listening on both sides. I would expect USC officials to do that, and they should address these students in a way that they feel good. And, if there is action to be taken, that action is taken."

Staff reporters Harrison Cahill and Cassie Cope contributed

## Diversity at USC

*The percentage of African-American students and full-time faculty at the University of South Carolina and all four-year S.C. colleges statewide in 2014.*

### USC

**Students:** 10.4%

**Faculty:** 4.6%

### ALL SC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

**Students:** 16.8%

**Faculty:** 6.3%

SOURCE: Analysis of S.C. Commission on Higher Education data

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**WE NEED A PROACTIVE ADMINISTRATION TO ATTACK THESE ISSUES.**

*Aaron Greene, a senior public relations major*



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MATT WALSH mwals@thestate.com

About 150 students walked out of class Monday with the USC 2020 Vision group protesting alleged inequalities on campus.



Senior Aaron Greene, a public relations major from Orangeburg, asks questions of the administration. The students want to boost recruiting to bring in more diversity in the student body and faculty.



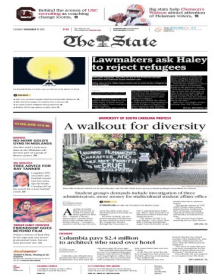
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT WALSH mwals@thestate.com

Derrick Quarles, a staffer for the legislative black caucus, engages in a conversation about the protesters' list of demands to school administrators Monday. The walkout was one of the largest protests at USC in recent years.

Title: **Lawmakers ask Haley to reject refugees**  
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# Lawmakers ask Haley to reject refugees

Knee-jerk response "not who we are as the American people," lawmaker and National Guard member says

## Haley asks to U.S. State Department not to send Syrian refugees to South Carolina

BY JAMIE SELF AND CASSIE COPE  
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More than a dozen S.C. lawmakers Monday called on Gov. Nikki Haley to block international refugees from coming to South Carolina.

The calls came after attacks that killed more than 120 people in Paris over the weekend, renewing fears of terrorists coming to the United States while posing as refugees.

Haley has backed the efforts of faith groups in Spartanburg to resettle refugees in South Carolina. However, late Monday, Haley asked the U.S. State De-

partment not to resettle any Syrian refugees in South Carolina, citing the difficulty of checking their backgrounds.

State Senate Majority Leaders Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, wrote to the governor, saying, "With the bombings and shootings in Paris this weekend, we need to be even more vigilant about protecting the state of South Carolina and her citizens. We do not want potential terrorists in our state."

State Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, Rep. Bill Chumley,

SEE S.C. REFUGEES, 5A

FROM PAGE 1A

## S.C. REFUGEES

R-Spartanburg, and Rep. Mike Burns, R-Greenville, co-signed a separate letter urging Haley to "immediately halt the refugee resettlement program in South Carolina."

Twelve other S.C. House Republicans, including Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope, R-York, sent a third letter to Haley, noting "at least six other governors have decided to reject the federal government's plans to relocate refugees within their borders. We urge you to do the same as quickly as possible."

The Islamic State terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks. One of the terrorists

who took part in that attack is thought to have entered Europe with refugees fleeing Syria, a stronghold for the terrorist organization.

A spokesman for one of two groups that has relocated refugees to the state said Monday that neither his group nor another has brought any Syrian refugees into South Carolina. Instead, the spokesman added, 90 percent of the refugees that his group has helped have come from Burma and the Congo.

Talking to reporters Monday, Haley said she was not aware of any Syrian refugees coming to South Carolina.

However, she said she

plans to find out whether that has changed. "If we think in any way whatsoever South Carolinians are going to be in danger, we're going to change our policy."

No Syrian refugees have arrived in South Carolina this year, said Jason Lee, director of the S.C. office of World Relief, which helps churches minister to and serve refugees in the Greenville-Spartanburg area.

Lee said it was his understanding that Lutheran Services Carolinas, the other S.C. refugee organization, also has not brought any Syrian refugees into the state. That group did not

return phone calls Monday.

About 90 percent of the 61 refugees that World Relief moved to the Spartanburg and Greenville areas this year are from Burma or the Congo, Lee said. The rest were other Africans and one Iraqi family, he added.

Often, "refugees are fleeing terrorists themselves," Lee said.

World Relief follows a "very rigorous" security screening process that takes 18 to 24 months for incoming refugees, Lee said.

World Relief has approval to bring an additional 116 refugees to the Spartanburg area in 2016, Lee said.

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None are Syrian.

"We grieve with the situation that's happened in Paris," Lee said, adding, "We hope people understand there are millions of refugees displaced and we're guided by a biblical call, a Christian call, to try to help them."

State Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, said a knee-jerk decision to close U.S. borders to refugees is "not who we are as the American people," calling on Haley not to stop the programs.

"What about the guy who's fought in combat

with American Special Forces for a decade?" asked Smith, a major in the S.C. National Guard.

Smith, who served in Afghanistan, said one of his interpreters there recently drowned when trying to flee to freedom along the refugee trail from Turkey to Europe. The interpreter, who had worked alongside Smith for almost seven months, was trying to obtain a special immigrant visa to enter the United States that is offered to interpreters who aid U.S. forces.

Haley said she planned

to talk to U.S. Homeland Security and the FBI officials Monday about refugees being brought to South Carolina.

Haley added the refugees being brought to the state are people who have been persecuted for being Christians or for their political beliefs. Some also are interpreters who assisted the U.S. military "and saved our American lives and so, in turn, we saved theirs."

## Refugees in S.C. through World Relief

*World Relief is a national agency that works with churches to help minister and assist refugees.*

**61 refugees** have come to S.C. through World Relief since the agency opened its Spartanburg office in late May.

**116 more refugees** could come next year.

**0 refugees** have come or are planned to arrive from Syria.