

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 12/30/2014 4:01:02 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Student in need

Title: Mrs
First Name: Jane
Middle Initial:H
Last Name: Gillespie
Suffix:
Street Address: 301 WILL HANKS RD.
Street Address 2:
City: Honea Path
State: South Carolina
Zip: 29654
Phone: (864) 353-8690

Email: jgpoooh2002@yahoo.com

Affiliation: South Carolina Resident
Message:

Dear Governor Haley,
12/29/2014

I am writing you this very informal letter as not only a mother but someone of concern for the future of a young girl. My daughter Carrie J. Hill is a sophomore at Erskine college in Due West S.C.. This is a very challenging college. Carrie is studying for a Bachelors of Arts with a major in history with a minor in secondary education. She has a great passion for history. She plans to teach in our S.C. schools.

Carrie is a very goal oriented person with a strong personality. Carrie joined the legislative team at Erskine by invite. Since in this group she made a trip to our capital and brought a bill which after some debate was passed. She has now been chosen by the governor of SC student legislature to take a seat assisting the Governor of student legislature. She is so excited about this opportunity. I think this could be her calling-LOL.

The problem she faces at this time is about to bring all this to an end- tuition. I hate sob stories and you probably do to, but I had cancer the first of 2014 and had it removed. I had to be out of work. My husband is disabled. I support a family of 5. So we got behind. We already live day to day barely getting by but I have worked hard to get her this far. But I was not able to finish paying her tuition for fall.

We did apply for FASFA and because my income as a nurse, she was only given the bare minimums.

We do have the minimum subsidized and unsubsidized loans and she has scholarships she has earned, and a small grant. No grants or lottery or any of that because of "my income" During my illness Carrie didn't do as well and lost her life scholarship by only a few points. Right now she owes for the present semester and is not able to register for spring classes until it's paid.

It seems so unfair to see other students from the same middle class who's parents make just a little less, get awarded all the grants and awards they need to pay for college and books while my daughter wonders if she will even get to finish.

We did try student and personal loans, but she needs a cosigner for these. My husband and I tried but due to our financial struggles our credit is not good enough. We have no one else to cosign for her. Carrie's biological father is a disabled Veteran and he applied to get his GI bill for her to use but because he is only 80% disabled and not 100% he was denied.

Recently a few of Carrie's professors, without Carrie knowing, went to the financial aid office to see if there was anything else that financial aid would do or might be missing. The answer was no and that due to Erskine's financial status they could not help. I feel that it says a lot for Carrie that these professors would go out of their way for her like that.

My question to you is—Is there anything you can do to help this young lady? Grants, scholarships, anything? I just hate to see such a determined, bright girl with so much potential, lose it all over tuition.

When I told Carrie I was going to write you she begged me not to. She is not one to ask for help, nor do I usually, but this is a special case. We have no other hope left. I feel if she drops out it will discourage her. We have prayed about this but Carrie is beginning to lose her faith.

The first SC student legislature meeting is Saturday. Carrie plans to resign before then since “I want be there in the spring” she says. I’ve never seen her give up but she feels she is up against a wall at this point. Please help her in any way you can, please please! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jane H Gillespie