

# SC House Democratic Caucus - 2013 Legislative Priorities

## **Ethics Reform/Early Voting Reforms**

House Democrats are committed to making this body more transparent, more accountable, and ultimately we hope to restore voters' trust in state government and its elected leaders.

- 1) Banning leadership PACs
- 2) Prohibiting members from contributing, through a PAC or otherwise, to any member of the House Ethics Committee.
- 3) Implementing an Early Voting period for South Carolina voters.
- 4) Establishing an Electioneering Law to require additional persons/entities to disclose contributions.
- 5) Change the law requiring candidates to file simultaneous SEIs with their SICs.

## **Department of Revenue/Cyber Security**

The breach of security that occurred when hackers stole 3.6 millions of South Carolina resident's personal information was preventable with a simple dual password system. We owe it to the taxpayers of South Carolina to do everything in our power to protect their personal and financial information.

- 1) Instead of making taxpayers sign up on their own identity theft insurance, taxpayers should be provided a form with tax returns to give state authority to sign them up for this insurance.
- 2) Reassess no-bid contract with Experian, look at other potential credit protection agencies.
- 3) Provide SC residents with free monthly or quarterly credit reports per FACT Act of 2003.
- 4) Fund an identity theft hotline through Attorney General's office with dedicated consumer advocates whose job it is to help those who've been victims of identity theft.
- 5) Provide victims of identity theft with free credit monitoring and full reimbursement for credit protection.

## **Education Funding**

- 1) South Carolina is 48th in the nation in graduation rate.
- 2) Goal of fully funding public education according to existing model.
- 3) Investing in early childhood education.
- 4) Return on Investment: Healthier children, kindergarten readiness, higher high school graduation rates.
- 5) If we can prevent 1,000 students from dropping out each year, these new graduates will earn a total of \$11 million in additional income each year and spend an extra \$1.1 million each year on vehicles, and buy homes worth \$23 million more by the time they are middle aged adults.

## **Medicaid Expansion**

- 1) The Affordable Care Act is officially here to stay.
- 2) If we fail in the Medicaid Expansion our tax dollars will simply go to insure people in other states.
- 3) Expand the Medicaid program in order to insure 300,000 more people.
- 4) In the near term, the federal government will cover 100% of the cost of this expansion. In the end state, they still match 9 to 1. (90% match)

## **State Employee Health Insurance**

- 1) The General Assembly voted last year to cover 100% of the increase out of the \$1.4 billion in additional revenue.
- 2) Our teachers, firefighters, law enforcement, and other state workers deserve to be treated fairly.
- 3) Unconstitutional: a separation of powers violation.
- 4) House Democrats support the lawsuit that caused the Supreme Court to temporarily stop the Budget and Control Board from forcing 234,000 state employees to pay for an increase in their health insurance premiums.