

From: Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov>
To: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Mottel, Haley <HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 2/24/2016 12:28:50 PM
Subject: RE: Please Review - For Pitts

Haley just heard from him, and he will stop by our office after the Joint Assembly adjourns today. We will give him copies of the handout in person, so I think I should hold off on sending the email. Ways & Means is supposed to make these decisions today, so this will be good timing.

From: Veldran, Katherine
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:46 AM
To: Schimsa, Rebecca
Subject: Re: Please Review - For Pitts

This is great - cc: me.

Once sent I'm also going to forward to DB.

On Feb 23, 2016, at 1:13 PM, Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

DRAFT

Representative Pitts,

We are so sorry to hear your wife is ill, and we certainly pray for her speedy recovery. We also apologize for bothering you at this time and will try to be brief.

Last fall, the Domestic Violence Task Force issued 50 Recommendations, two of which related to funding for prosecutors:

- First, the Task Force recommends ending the practice of law enforcement officers prosecuting domestic violence cases in magistrate and municipal courts – South Carolina is just one of three states to allow this practice, forcing police officers to spend time preparing for trial and trying cases against experienced defense attorneys.
- Second, the Task Force reported data showing that 42% of our state's violent crimes are committed within domestic relationships – South Carolina is 6th highest in the nation for violent crime, so prosecuting all crime is also prosecuting domestic violence crime – but yet, our prosecutors have significantly high caseloads, especially in higher-poverty counties.

Since then, our office worked with the Prosecution Coordination Commission to identify the cost of fixing these two problems:

- \$2,988,923 for new prosecutors to absorb the domestic violence cases being prosecuted by law enforcement officers.
- \$7,826,875 for new prosecutors to reduce caseloads and decrease backlogs.

It is our understanding that the \$2.8 million to end officer prosecutions is currently missing from the House proposal. It is our hope that the House will join the Task Force, Governor, and stakeholder groups against domestic violence. Attached is a one-page information sheet about this initiative. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you,

Rebecca

Rebecca S. Schimsa
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One SC Flood Relief Fund – www.onescfund.org

<FY1617 Executive Budget Recommendation for prosecuting Domestic Violence.pdf>