

Dear Governor Haley,

It's been a long time since I wrote an actual letter, but I felt this deserved to be said in something more tangible than email. I'm writing to thank you and commend you on your handling of the Hurricane Matthew crisis. Your job must be tough even on a good day, and I can't imagine how hard it must have been in the past couple of weeks. Deciding when and if to give the evacuation order is a call I would never want to have to make. I'm sure that either way there would have been people criticizing your decision. My fiancé and I took his boys and our dogs to Lexington to stay with his family, rather than try to ride out the storm here in Mount Pleasant. Like everyone else, we carefully watched the track of the hurricane. We watched every press conference you did to find out how things were proceeding around the state. Your calm and compassionate leadership really shone during those press conferences, reassuring all of us. I know the challenges of being a woman in a male-dominated profession, as one of only two women chaplains at MUSC Medical Center. I'm proud to live in South Carolina under our first female governor and see what an incredible job you do under very difficult circumstances.

Another thing that has impressed me these last few days is a humility you display that is so rare in politicians. It was wonderful when you took time in the press conferences to recognize and thank other members of the great team helping us all get through Hurricane Matthew. I imagine people in elected office get a lot of negative messages from their constituents, but not a lot of positive. So I wanted to take the time to give you a well deserved "Brava!" You and I disagree on a lot of political issues, since I'm a bleeding heart liberal, but crisis brushes all that aside. I'm glad you were our governor during this time. Thank you for your leadership.

A grateful South Carolinian,

Rev. Stacy N. Sargent