State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
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June 13, 2014

The Honorable Glenn F. McConnell
State House, First Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R314, S.813, which provides for a criminal penalty for individuals who enter public libraries after having been warned not to do so. **I am vetoing this bill because it grants library employees wide authority to deprive citizens of their ability to use a public libraries for an indefinite amount of time based on mere allegations of misconduct.**

This bill was introduced to assist public libraries in securing their facilities from individuals who engage in serious or continuous misconduct. Although libraries have the ability to ask individuals to leave for the remainder of any given day, an Attorney General's opinion issued in 2009 explains their limited authority to expel individuals for longer periods of time.

While I understand the problems public libraries face, I have serious misgivings about the scope of authority this bill gives to unelected county library boards. Further, county governments have the authority to pass local ordinances dictating acceptable conduct on public property and consequences for those actions. **Rather than a one-size-fits-all solution at the state level, each county government can and should tailor solutions to the particular problems faced by public libraries in their community.**

In the interest of preserving due process and maintaining the spirit of true public-use for publicly funded facilities, I ask that each member of the General Assembly cast a vote to sustain my veto. God bless.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley