



HENRY McMASTER  
GOVERNOR

July 3, 2024

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly:

I am vetoing and returning without my approval certain line items in R-252, H. 5100, the FY 2024-25 General Appropriations Act.

Everywhere we look, South Carolina is growing. More and more people are visiting our state – with many deciding to stay for good. Employers are creating new jobs, entrepreneurs are opening new businesses, and companies are deciding to relocate here.

Our economy is booming, once again creating a record budget surplus, this year totaling over \$2.8 billion in unexpected revenue. Last year, 2023, was the second most successful year in state history for industry recruitment with \$9.22 billion in new investment and 14,120 new jobs. This followed 2022, which was the most successful in history with \$10.27 billion in new investments and 14,083 jobs. Since 2017, we have announced over \$38.99 billion in new investments and 89,713 new jobs.

Through collaboration, cooperation, and communication, our successful partnership has produced resounding win after win for the people and prosperity of South Carolina. This year's budget includes a historic 292 proposals from my executive budget totaling \$2.4 billion – this represents an increase of 126 more than were included two years ago.

In addition, and for the first time in recent memory, the General Assembly did not override a single gubernatorial veto from the FY 2023-24 General Appropriations Act.

No endeavor better illustrates our state's leadership style than the SC Nexus for Advanced Resilient Energy (SC Nexus) consortium. SC Nexus is the culmination of groundwork laid in prior years through collaborative public-private initiatives and was developed by the South Carolina Department of Commerce in collaboration with our research institutions of higher education, technical colleges, state agencies, the Savannah River National Laboratory, economic development non-profits, and private businesses.

Page Two  
July 3, 2024

This budget builds on my request by providing \$20 million to support SC Nexus and serve as the “state” match as required to be eligible for federal funding.

Until recently, South Carolina had the highest personal income tax rate in the southeast and the 12th highest in the nation at 7%. No more. A few years ago, I was honored to propose and sign into law the largest income tax cut in state history, followed by income tax cuts in each subsequent state budget. This budget continues to cut the state’s personal income tax rate, lowering the rate from 6.4% to 6.2%.

This year taxpayers will keep an additional \$199 million of their hard-earned money instead of sending it to state government. If future revenues allow, we should continue cutting the personal income tax rate each year until we are well below the 6% rate.

In the area of K-12 education, we continue to make remarkable progress in raising teacher pay. Six years ago, the minimum starting salary of a teacher in South Carolina was \$30,113, and the average teacher salary was below the Southeastern average. Today, the minimum starting salary of a teacher in South Carolina is \$42,500, and the average teacher salary now exceeds the Southeastern average.

This budget increases teacher salaries by \$4,500, making the new minimum starting teacher salary \$47,000. My goal of a minimum starting salary of \$50,000 – by 2026 – is within close sight.

We all know that cell phone use is distracting. Four years ago, I began including a proviso in my executive budgets prohibiting the use of cell phones or other personal electronic communication devices by students at school. Studies show that students’ anxiety and stress related to social media are reduced when cell phone access during school hours is prohibited.

I commend the General Assembly for including this proviso in this year’s state budget. Teachers should be free to teach and students free to learn without the burden of added distraction.

As you are aware, placing an armed, certified school resource officer in every school, in every county, all day, every day, has been one of my top priorities. At my request, the General Assembly began providing funds to hire more resource officers for our state’s 1,284 public schools. The grant program has been very successful. This year’s budget provides \$2 million to continue adding officers in the remaining 175 schools without an assigned officer.

Access and affordability to higher education for every South Carolinian is essential to ensuring that our state has the trained and skilled workforce to compete for jobs and investment in the future. That means we must invest to make all higher education – our colleges, universities, and technical colleges – accessible and affordable for the sons and daughters of South Carolina.

Page Three  
July 3, 2024

This year marks the fifth consecutive year that we froze college tuition for in-state students, while providing additional funding for needs-based financial aid at any in-state public or private college, university, or at our 16 technical colleges.

Additionally, the General Assembly agreed with my executive budget proposal to provide \$1 million for operations and security for the Anne Frank Center and \$1 million for the Center for Civil Rights History and Research, both located at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

To address the high demand for skills, training, and knowledge, this budget once again provides \$94 million in lottery funds to South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships (SC WINS) through the South Carolina Technical College System.

In the last four years, this very successful program has provided over 108,095 South Carolinians with scholarships to cover the cost of tuition and required fees at any of our technical colleges to earn a post-secondary or industry credential in high-demand careers like manufacturing, nursing, computer science, information technology, transportation, logistics, or construction.

Despite the high demand for skills, training, and knowledge, many colleges across the nation are seeing declining enrollments. To address these challenges, my executive budget proposed – and the General Assembly declined to fund – a systemic review of our state’s 33 public institutions of higher education. I am hopeful you will reconsider next year. The time has come to evaluate whether the courses, degrees, and certificates that are offered at our public colleges and universities are meeting our state’s future workforce needs.

There is no infrastructure more in need of continued investment than our state’s roads, bridges, highways, and interstates. According to the Department of Transportation, there are nearly 9,000 bridges on primary and secondary roads across our state that need to be repaired, rehabilitated, or rebuilt. Many of these bridges are 60, 70, and even in excess of 80 years old and are crumbling before our eyes each day.

While the \$200 million that was appropriated by the General Assembly was less than the \$500 million my executive budget proposed for emergency bridge replacement and repairs, it is nevertheless, a good start.

We cannot allow our state’s culturally and environmentally significant structures, monuments, lands, islands, and waters to be overcome by development, mismanagement, flooding, erosion, or storm damage. It is our duty to preserve and protect our history, our culture, and our environment, and the public’s access to them, before they are lost forever.

For the second year in a row, the General Assembly has agreed and has appropriated \$30 million to the Office of Resilience and \$28 million to the Conservation Land Bank and the Department of Natural Resources. These funds will enhance these agencies’ existing efforts for preserving

culturally or environmentally significant properties, disaster recovery, and flooding mitigation efforts.

To keep South Carolinians safe, we must maintain a robust law enforcement presence – and properly “fund the police.” Our state law enforcement and criminal justice agencies have begun to stem the tide of personnel loss with recruitment and retention pay raises provided in previous years’ state budgets.

This state budget continues that investment in our state law enforcement professionals by providing an additional \$6.1 million for recruitment and retention pay raises. It is my hope that we will continue this annual investment in every state budget going forward.

Animal fighting, especially dog fighting, is one of the cruelest criminal activities in our society. Law enforcement estimates that most of the people participating in this barbaric activity have long criminal records.

In September 2022, a State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) agent was dedicated to combating animal fighting and working in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies. Shortly thereafter, the agent helped execute one of the “biggest takedowns of a dogfighting operation in South Carolina history,” according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

This budget expands upon this success by providing an additional \$566,000 to hire three additional SLED agents dedicated to animal fighting.

Finally, I applaud the General Assembly for their remarkable evolution and strides made with the disclosure of earmarked appropriations, which were previously shielded from public scrutiny or debate.

After decades of overriding the gubernatorial vetoes of innocuous sounding appropriation titles inside of which the earmarks were hidden, the leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives now disclose the sponsors and recipients of earmarked appropriations, as well as the activity, function, or project for which each earmark is intended.

There are approximately 512 earmarks totaling \$424.7 million in the FY 2024-25 General Appropriations Bill. Many of these earmarks are investments in local governments for the purchase of new patrol cars, body armor, firetrucks, upgraded weaponry, and even K9 officers. There are earmarks for infrastructure, buildings, roads, bridges, wastewater and sewer projects, recreational parks, walking trails, and traffic improvements.

I have included a few examples of the many deliberative and meritorious “earmark” appropriations that were sponsored by members of the General Assembly.

Senator Ross Turner sponsored a \$2.0 million earmark to construct a new facility for Meals on Wheels of Greenville. Research documents that food insecure seniors are 60% more likely to have congestive heart failure or suffer a heart attack and are three times more likely to suffer from depression. In 2023, Meals on Wheels of Greenville delivered 382,936 meals to 2,569 clients. With South Carolina's population of individuals who are 60 years of age or older to grow by 27% by the year 2030, Meals on Wheels of Greenville needs a new site that will triple meal production.

Representative Chris Murphy sponsored a \$500,000 earmark for Turn90 to provide reentry services to men at risk of rearrest as they return home from incarceration. For every dollar invested in Turn90, the state saves an estimated \$1.76 in avoided prison costs. This March, the Riley Institute awarded Turn90 the 2024 OneSouthCarolina Partners in Progress Award, which recognizes a significant contribution to the social and economic progress of South Carolina.

Representatives Ivory Thigpen and Annie McDaniel and Senators Vernon Stephens and Deon Tedder sponsored a \$300,000 earmark to the University-Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) in support of the 2025 HBCU Engage National Conference to be held in Charleston in March 2025. The UIDP supports collaborations between universities and industry by developing and disseminating strategies for addressing common issues between the two sectors. Annually, UIDP sponsors a national conference that focuses on collaborations between industries and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to highlight academic programs and research efforts. The 2025 conference will provide an opportunity for national and international companies to visit the campuses of South Carolina's HBCUs, showcasing, promoting, and maximizing the exposures of South Carolina's HBCUs nationally.

Senator Chip Campsen sponsored an earmark of \$500,000 to the town of James Island. Testing of water samples has indicated that old and failing septic tanks in the James Island Creek Watershed are the likely source of pollutants in the area. The objective of the earmark is to fund new sewer lines to replace these septic tanks, thus addressing an environmental hazard.

However, I must repeat my proposal for a better way to accomplish this transparency and accountability for the taxpayers. I once again ask the General Assembly to consider my proposal to create a public, merit-based competitive grants process for these types of appropriations, especially as it relates to non-governmental organizations.

Administered by state agencies, funds would be made available only to entities which demonstrate required community support and missions consistent with the policy goals and outcomes intended by the General Assembly. Further, all applications and award criteria would be placed online, allowing for public scrutiny and total transparency.

To my colleagues in the General Assembly, I say: The people of South Carolina have benefited from our ongoing cooperation, communication, and collaboration. Let us continue to work

together vigorously, thereby ensuring that future generations of South Carolinians can keep winning and prospering.

In that spirit, I ask that you thoughtfully consider and sustain each of the following vetoes:

### **Veto 1**

**Department of Education, Part IB, Section 1, Page 302, Proviso 1.89, SDE: Competency-Based Education**

Act 127 of 2024 codified the ability of schools or school districts to implement competency-based education, which previously had been authorized by this recurring proviso in the annual general appropriations act. The law went into effect on May 13, 2024; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.

### **Veto 2**

**Department of Education, Part IB, Section 1, Page 310, Proviso 1.122, SDE: Activity Buses**

This proviso authorizes school districts to provide activity school bus access to community nonprofit organizations for non-educational purposes. This is not an appropriate use of school district resources and may raise legal, ethical or liability issues.

### **Veto 3**

**Commission on Higher Education, Part IB, Section 11, Page 351, Proviso 11.24, CHE: SC University Cyber Leadership Council.**

This proviso creates the South Carolina University Cyber Leadership Council at the Commission on Higher Education.

On September 9, 2022, I issued Executive Order 2022-27, directing the South Carolina Department of Commerce to lead a collaborative effort among industry, academia, nonprofit organizations, and government to enhance the competitive standing of South Carolina's cybersecurity ecosystem and workforce. The result of that effort is a *South Carolina Statewide Cyber Ecosystem Strategic Plan* that will be published this summer.

Individuals from several institutions of higher education participated on working groups that created the plan including representatives from Clemson University, the University of South Carolina-Columbia, The Citadel, College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina University, South Carolina State University, the University of South Carolina-Beaufort, Technical College of the Lowcountry, Trident Technical College, the Commission on Higher Education, and the South Carolina Technical College System.

This proviso would circumvent and possibly duplicate work that is already being done on this critical issue by the State of South Carolina through the Department of Commerce and other state agencies.

#### **Veto 4**

**Clemson PSA**, Part IB, Section 45, Page 398, Proviso 45.11, CU-PSA: Feasibility Study

This proviso directs the Clemson Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) to conduct a feasibility study to establish a “Center for Civic Engagement” to promote leadership and civic engagement.

The Clemson PSA website describes their mission as a “state agency comprised of four units: Clemson Experiment Station, Clemson Cooperative Extension, Livestock Poultry Health, and Regulatory Services. Clemson PSA safeguards the health and safety of livestock, poultry and companion animals and protects the food supply and public health of South Carolinians through its Livestock Poultry Health division, while PSA’s Regulatory Services division ensures the safe, effective use of fertilizers and pesticides, and the quality of seeds and plants grown in the state and conducts programs that prevent agroterrorism. Clemson PSA works collaboratively with Clemson’s College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences for research and outreach through the Clemson Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. Clemson PSA outreach and research facilities also include the Clemson Experimental Forest and South Carolina Botanical Garden, and a host of centers and institutes whose missions support and advance South Carolina’s agribusiness and forestry industries while also developing solutions to sustainability manage the state’s natural resources.”

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/>

I do not believe this proviso is consistent with the Clemson PSA mission. An institution of higher education with an established civic entity like the Riley Institute at Furman University would be a more appropriate platform for this initiative.

#### **Veto 5**

**Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism**, Part IB, Section 49, Page 404, Proviso 49.22, PRT: State Road S-46

This proviso prohibits the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism from expending funds to establish additional vehicular public access to Paris Mountain State Park in Greenville County.

Limiting the public’s access to a state park through a budget proviso is not an appropriate way to address residential traffic concerns. I am therefore vetoing the proviso.

### **Veto 6**

**Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism**, Part IB, Section 49, Page 404, Proviso 49.24, PRT: Advertising Funds

This proviso directs the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to expend advertising funds to promote “inland lakes for tourism and fishing, hunting opportunities throughout the state, and public and non-profit owned and administered trail systems in all areas of the state.”

The proviso is unnecessary. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism advertising efforts already promotes and markets tourism opportunities at inland lakes and trail systems across the state.

### **Veto 7**

**Department of Environmental Services**, Part IB, Section 55, Page 414, Proviso 55.25, DES: Erosion Control

### **Veto 8**

**Department of Environmental Services**, Part IB, Section 55, Page 415, Proviso 55.26, DES: Beaches

These two provisos seek to alter critical beach-management policies and procedures for a single fiscal year and establish novel procedures that risk exposing the State to significant financial liability without adequate justification.

To be sure, I understand the special importance of the underlying issues to affected coastal residents. But as I noted several years ago in vetoing an eleventh-hour effort to exempt certain erosion control devices from the applicable permitting provisions, because the state has worked for decades to develop a comprehensive statutory and regulatory framework to protect our shared coastal resources, it would be unwise to enact special exceptions to the Beachfront Management Act in a hasty manner. The same rationale applies here, with even greater force.

A piecemeal attempt to address beach erosion and management through provisos, which are only in effect for one fiscal year, is not good policy.

In addition to exposing the State to significant potential legal liability and financial risk, these one-year provisos—which are seemingly intended to undo previous enforcement efforts, stall pending actions, and chill the Department of Environmental Services from initiating future ones—would, if adopted, likely lead to the inconsistent application and enforcement of critical laws and regulations designed to protect and preserve our state’s pristine coastline.



For these reasons, I am vetoing these two provisos.

### **Veto 9**

**General Provisions**, Part IB, Section 117, Page 543, Proviso 117.134, GP: Permanent Improvement Projects

S.314 (R 239) of 2024 amends the process by which public colleges and universities seek review from the Joint Bond Review Committee and approval by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority for permanent improvement projects. The proviso is no longer needed.

### **Veto 10**

**General Provisions**, Part IB, Section 117, Page 555, Proviso 117.156, GP: Name Image Likeness

Act 207 of 2024 amended Act 35 of 2021 pertaining to compensation for intercollegiate athletes for Name, Image, or Likeness (NIL). The law went into effect on May 21, 2024; therefore, this proviso suspending Act 35 of 2021 is no longer needed.

### **Veto 11**

**General Provisions**, Part IB, Section 117, Page 560, Proviso 117.180, GP: Federal Funds Oversight Committee

On June 22, 2022, I vetoed from the FY 2022-23 General Appropriations Act a proviso creating a similar study committee, the Justice Forty Oversight Committee, to enact the social and justice policies of President Biden and his administration.

This proviso creates the Federal Funds Oversight Committee, whose membership is essentially identical to the membership of the Justice Forty Oversight Committee. The Federal Funds Oversight Committee is “to study and oversee the expenditure of federal and other funds’ effectiveness in creating targeted efforts to address long standing issues in certain rural and urban communities in South Carolina and recommend opportunities.” Without a clear definition of the issues to be addressed and opportunities created, I am vetoing this proviso.

## Veto 12

**General Provisions**, Part IB, Section 117, Page 561, Proviso 117.183, GP: Healthcare Market Reform Measures Study Committee

This proviso creates a legislative study committee to conduct a comprehensive healthcare market reform study with its findings and recommendations required to be reported to the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.

We must strive to ensure that every South Carolinian has access to quality affordable healthcare, much of which can be accomplished by unleashing competition through the free market, and by eliminating burdensome and anti-competitive rules and regulations.

I believe that studying and working toward that goal is a worthy endeavor. However, I believe it requires more than a five-month treatment by a legislative study committee.

In addition, I remain unconvinced that the expansion of Medicaid benefits – which this legislative study committee is tasked with considering – is necessary, nor do I believe it is fiscally responsible.

I am therefore vetoing this proviso.

## Veto 13

Statewide Revenue, Part IB, Section 118, Page 579, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (66) H630 - Department of Education, (b) ActivEd Walkabouts - Active Learning Program, \$400,000 – **Representative Bill Whitmire and others**.

In FY 2018-19, the General Assembly created by proviso an Innovation Grants Program at the South Carolina Department of Education, whereby providers of educational programs and services could apply for state funds. Applications are reviewed, and awards made by the Grants Committee. The objective of the Innovation Grants Program was to replace earmark appropriations with a transparent and accountable process for vetting education programs to be piloted in our public schools. Grantees are required to participate in an external evaluation as prescribed by the committee and agreed upon in the application and award process. Each year the General Assembly has funded the Innovation Grants Program using Education Improvement Act (EIA) revenues. In this budget, the General Assembly has appropriated approximately \$15 million to the Grants Committee.

This veto deals with the direct appropriation of non-recurring revenues to a for-profit business, which had previously participated in the Innovation Grants Program. In FY 2021-22, ActivEd received a grant from the Innovation Grants Committee in the amount of \$454,000. In FY 2023-24, ActivEd applied for a grant of \$1,006,750 from the Innovation Grants Committee, but the Committee did not award any funds.

An earmark that expressly bypasses the state's procurement process and the Grants Committee process is not good policy. The vendor can apply again to the Grants Committee or can contract directly with school districts to provide its services in the upcoming school year.

#### **Veto 14**

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 580, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (69) H790 – Department of Archives and History, (a) African American Settlement Communities Historic Commission, Inc. – 1904 Long Point School House Restoration, \$150,000, **Representative Kathy Landing**

#### **Veto 15**

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 584, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (78) L040 – Department of Social Services, (l) My Community's Keeper Mentor Group – Advance Peace, \$70,000, **Representative Tiffany Spann-Wilder**

#### **Veto 16**

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 588, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (85) P280 – Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, (vvv) N.O.W.W. Empowerment Housing and Community Projects, \$25,000, **Representative Jackie Hayes**

#### **Veto 17**

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 589, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (86) P320 - Department of Commerce, (f) SC Center for Visual Arts – Downtown Building Revitalization Acquisition, \$400,000, **Representative Carla Schuessler**

These earmarks (Vetoes 14, 15, 16, and 17) are vetoed because the entity or organization designated to receive state funds has not registered as a charity with the Secretary of State, has an expired charity status, or has not submitted an accurate annual financial report.

Section 33-56-30 of the South Carolina Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act (S.C. Code of Laws Section 33-56-10 et. seq.) states that “a charitable organization which intends to solicit contributions within this State or have contributions solicited on its behalf must file a registration statement with the Secretary of State, on forms prescribed by the Secretary of State, by the date provided pursuant to Section 33-56-60 (A) but in all cases before solicitation.” Section 33-56-60(A) states that a charitable organization must provide an annual report of financial activities that covers “the preceding fiscal year and must be filed within four and one-half months of the close of the organization's fiscal year unless a written extension has been granted by the Secretary of State.” A contribution is defined

by Section 33-56-20(4) to be “the promise, grant, or pledge of money, credit assistance, or property of any kind or value.” An earmark in the state general appropriations bill meets the definition of contribution.

Beginning May 1, 2024, the Secretary of State’s Office assisted our Office in reviewing all nonprofit organizations that received an earmark in the Senate or House passed version of the FY 2024-25 general appropriations bill to determine if the organization had registered as a charity, if the organization had renewed its annual registration statement, and if the organization had submitted its annual financial report. My Office then communicated the information discovered with the staffs of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. Many organizations that had previously not registered with the Secretary of State’s Office registered following this communication.

### **Veto 18**

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 581, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (69) H790 – Department of Archives and History, (l) Phoenix Correspondence Commission, \$50,000, **Senator Rex Rice**.

The Phoenix Correspondence Commission supports and promotes federalism, monitors the progress of passage of Article V resolutions by states to apply for a constitutional convention and facilitates states in the convening and administration of any potential Article V constitutional convention of the states.

I am supportive of the mission of the Phoenix Correspondence Commission. However, if the purpose of this earmark appropriation is intended to support members of the General Assembly’s direct participation, the budgets of the House of Representatives and the Senate would be more appropriate and transparent vehicles for funding membership dues, conference registrations and travel expenses – rather than the Department of Archives and History.

### **Veto 19**

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 584, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (75) J120 – Department of Mental Health, (d) The Giving Back Fund c/o Mental Wealth Alliance – Mental Health Gym, \$175,000 – **Representative JA Moore**

As I did last year, I am vetoing this earmark because this is not an appropriate use of state funds. This earmark first goes to a national charity, The Giving Back Fund, in care of the Mental Wealth Alliance. The explanation states that the funds are for operations of a mental health gym in North Charleston. There was no budget identifying how the funds are to be spent.

## Veto 20

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 584, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (77) J200 – Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, (b) Decisions.org - Cope EMS Wingman App, \$820,000 – **Representative Chris Murphy**

This veto deals with the appropriation of \$820,000 for statewide implementation of an electronic device application that provides information and support to survivors of an overdose. The objective is that the application will increase the ability of individuals to make a long-term recovery.

Rather than funding this initiative through an earmark, the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services should make a budget request to the General Assembly for such an investment and then monitor the implementation of this technology to document evidence of any outcomes.

## Veto 21

**Statewide Revenue**, Part IB, Section 118, Page 593, Proviso 118.20 (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (94) R600 - Department of Employment and Workforce, Heart of Life - Youth Workforce Development Program, \$200,000 – **Representatives Terry Alexander and Jackie Hayes**

From the information provided, the funds will be used by the charity, Heart of Life, to provide career development services to youth between the ages of 13 and 25 at an average cost of \$5,000 per participant. The CEO of Heart of Life currently works for Eckerd Connects, providing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (“WIOA”) services in SC Works Centers in the Pee Dee area.

WIOA is a federal workforce development grant program administered in South Carolina through the Department of Employment and Workforce (“DEW”). The United States Department of Labor provides funds to DEW who, in turn, funds local workforce boards that competitively procure service providers whose staff assist workers in obtaining employment by providing job search assistance and core training opportunities. The Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments Workforce Development Board awarded its WIOA service provider contract to Eckerd Connects.

Clearly, the work of the charity, the professional responsibilities of the charity’s CEO, and the expenditure of the state’s WIOA funds could be undermined by this earmark.

Page Fourteen  
July 3, 2024

For the foregoing reasons, I am vetoing and returning without my approval the above provisions in R-252, H. 5100, the FY 2024-25 General Appropriations Act.

Yours very truly,



Henry McMaster