

Dear SC Legislator:

All of us have felt the strain of financial insecurity during this recession. Now the worst has passed. **State revenues are rising more rapidly than anyone dared to hope just a year ago.**

Early in the recession, **class sizes increased** dramatically, and children suffered. Teachers were asked to do more with less. Then, the Legislature gave districts permission to **ignore the existing pay structure of teacher salary schedules.**

Teachers rely on the promises in the salary schedule when choosing a district to work in, a house to live in, a mortgage to pay for it with, and even the size of their families.

Now, revenues have begun to rise. **The state is finishing the year with a surplus of almost a billion dollars. Next year, revenues will be even higher.**

Gov. Haley has proposed a budget that cuts education spending by \$76 million and does nothing to restore teacher salaries. At the same time, she is requesting a \$62 million corporate tax cut.

Our state is one of only four that have cut more than 20% from their education budgets during the recession. In fact, **our 24.1% cut was the largest in the country.**

The state's minimum funding formula has been suspended. It would fund education at \$2790 per student in 2012. Right now, the base student cost in the budget is \$1880. It is approximately **what SC schools were given in 1995.**

Gov. Haley would take it down to \$1790. Apparently, rolling funding back 16 years wasn't good enough.

Our children and their teachers deserve better in this election year. Use returning revenues to fully fund our schools, and honor this state's commitments to its teachers.

Sincerely,

The Legislature needs to hear from you that this is not acceptable. Right now, the issue sits with the Education Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee.

The members are:

Rep. Kenny Bingham - 803- 734-3138 / 518C Blatt Bldg, Columbia, SC 29201

Rep. Rita Allison - 803-212-6788 / 402C Blatt Bldg, Columbia, SC 29201

Rep. Mike Anthony - 803 -734-3060 / 432D Blatt Bldg, Columbia, SC 29201

It would also be helpful to contact the other members of the SC House and Senate. It is never too early to give input. As this process moves forward, they will all be involved in these issues.

To contact members by e-mail, go to: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov>

- 1) Click on the chamber heading at the top menu (House or Senate...to get everyone, you must do each separately).
- 2) Select "Email" from the top menu.
- 3) Choose an individual member from the list, or hit "All Senate/House Members" at the top of the page.

As always, e-mail is easy, snail mail is better, and a phone call or visit is best of all.

Try to say something that makes them want to help you.

They really do read your e-mails and letters.

*Information above was provided to Drayton Hall Elementary School PTA from concerned DHES teachers and the Charleston Teacher Alliance.