



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

February 15, 2012

The Honorable Michael L. Fair
211 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Senator Fair,

South Carolina's educational system has at times faced challenges of equity, quality, and leadership – challenges that cannot be solved by increasing our dependence on federal dollars and the mandates that come with them. Just as we should not relinquish control of education to the Federal government, neither should we cede it to the consensus of other states. Confirming my commitment to finding South Carolina solutions to South Carolina challenges, I am pleased to support your efforts to reverse the 2010 decision to adopt common core standards.

While I understand and agree with looking outside South Carolina for ideas to improve educational outcomes, I firmly believe that our government and our people should retain as much local control over programs as possible. The solution to many of South Carolina's educational challenges will be found by sending more of our limited resources to the classroom and offering educational choices to meet the needs of South Carolina's students. Our children deserve swift action and the passage of a clean resolution that will allow our State to reclaim control of and responsibility for educating South Carolinians.

Thank you for the important work you have done on this issue; please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb