



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Kirkman Finlay III

District No. 75 - Richland County
P. O. Box 11684
Columbia, SC 29211

532-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6943

Committees:

Ways and Means

March 12, 2018

President Harris Pastides
University of South Carolina - Office of the President
Osborne Administration Building, Suite 206
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Dear President Pastides:

Thank you for your response to the letter from Tim Hofferth, Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, regarding his reservations with the Higher Education Enterprise Act that was recently heard before the Ways and Means Higher Education Subcommittee. In your rebuttal, you addressed some of your concerns with his position. However, there were six points made within his letter that you did not address. I am requesting a response from you on those points, which are listed below:

- Institutional debt per student has increased significantly in the last decade from \$10,722 per student in 2008 to \$17,771 per student in 2017 - even though there **are 20,000 additional students in the system** (Institutional data submitted to CHE)
- South Carolina ranks 6th nationally in the amount spent on higher education capital projects (National Association of State Budget Officers - NASBO)
- South Carolina ranks 12th in the nation on the amount spent on higher education capital projects over the last decade (NASBO), even though the state is nowhere near the 12th largest state (if measured by population, number of students in higher education, or the size of the state budget)
- South Carolina is 1st in the southeast, and 8th nationally, in cost of attendance at our public colleges and universities (SREB)
- S.C. ranks 1st in the nation in tuition as a percentage of household income (Chronicle of Higher Education)
- S.C. ranks 8th nationally in student debt per borrower (CNBC)

Additionally, after reviewing information from the 2017 Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan and Commission on Higher Education recommendations regarding maintenance, it has come

to my attention that maintenance needs at the University of South Carolina - Columbia (School of Medicine included) would cost \$209,437,827 to bring facilities to an 80% rating. Given this data, how does the University of South Carolina plan to address this enormous number in a reasonable time frame?

I would appreciate your response to the six points and your answer on how the University plans to address the amount of maintenance needs on campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirkman Finlay', written over a white background.

Kirkman Finlay

cc: Representative Jay Lucas, Speaker of the House,
Representative Brian White, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee
Tim Hofferth, Chairman of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Jeff Schilz, Interim President and Executive Director of CHE