



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

May 27, 2016

The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker of the House of Representative
Statehouse, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Speaker Lucas and Members of the House of Representatives,

Today, I am vetoing R200, H.3849, a bill limiting public disclosure of certain records relevant to teacher evaluations currently subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

The intent of this bill is to protect sensitive information about individual teachers and promote a more candid approach to educator evaluations, but the final language of this bill is unfortunately too expansive. As drafted, the language would allow school districts to exempt any record related to an educator's evaluation solely because that record contained personally identifiable information. Accordingly, this exemption could extend to disciplinary records documenting teacher misconduct – records that should not be withheld from the public.

At this time, I am working with the bill's sponsor and Superintendent Spearman to cooperatively develop legislation meeting the goals of protecting privacy and preserving reasonable public access to public records. With my commitment to address this issue, I ask that you sustain this veto.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley