



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

May 12, 2010

The Honorable André Bauer
President of the Senate
State House, First Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am writing to inform you that I am vetoing and returning without my approval S.481, R. 182, a bill that creates the South Carolina Certified Athletic Trainers Foundation. The eleven-member foundation is intended to solicit and accept donations to ensure that a certified athletic trainer is on staff in every middle school and high school.

We have long supported the public school system and its athletic programs. Our student athletes learn principles of hard work and team building by participating in athletics. We also understand and appreciate the need to utilize a qualified health care professional to manage injuries incurred while participating in sports. On one level we would like to support this bill; however, we are vetoing this legislation for the following reason.

We cannot support legislation that creates yet another state-sanctioned non-profit corporation. There are literally thousands of needs across the state, and to sanction by the state but a few worthy causes is to put them in a superior position to others in fundraising. We do not believe this is equitable to the other thousands. For example, more than a decade ago PalmettoPride was established as a non-profit corporation authorized to coordinate and implement programs for litter control. At that time, PalmettoPride was created as the Governor's Task Force on Litter by Executive Order under Governor Jim Hodges. However, PalmettoPride progressed from a task force to a temporary proviso to ultimately becoming established in law. As important as litter control is, should this not be on level ground with other causes in the competition for other donations? For example, the state also has a compelling need to stop drunk driving, which the non-profit, MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) continues to fight.

In this case, there is no legislative roadblock preventing local schools or organizations from easily setting up a tax-exempt non-profit foundation. This is evidenced by the more than 8,000 charitable organizations and 1,500 professional fundraisers registered with our Secretary of State's Division of Public Charities. Keep in mind that legislation such as this opens Pandora's

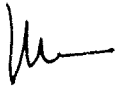
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Box to every charity or non-profit entity in our state lobbying for the state's endorsement. As we have said on numerous occasions, the government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers – in this case, non-profits which would result in declaring one more worthy than another.

Additionally, almost half of the 256 high schools in our state already have an athletic trainer - without the assistance of a state-endorsed corporation. If schools without a trainer wish to hire one, then we are confident that the South Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association (SCATA) could create a non-profit foundation and solicit donations without endowments of this form from the government. In fact, SCATA could build on their existing fundraising efforts that currently provide numerous awards and scholarships.

For this reason, I am vetoing and returning without my approval S.481, R. 182.

Sincerely,



Mark Sanford