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[Veto of approval S. 19, R. 137]

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State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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March 31, 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 vetoing and returning without my approval S. 19, R. 137, which significantly expands the jurisdiction of police officers who work for private colleges and universities.

It is with difficulty that I do so because I'm a big proponent of choice in education and an important part of this includes private, church and Christian schools. To me they're invaluable in their contribution to society at-large not only because of the choice they represent, but because an educated mind without an accompanying value system to go with it doesn't work. C. S. Lewis has written extensively on this, but probably my favorite quote on this front comes from Sri Sathya Sai Baba who said, "Politics without principles, education without character, science without humanity, and commerce without morality are not only useless, but also positively dangerous." So all this is an exceedingly long way of saying that as an administration we would want to do anything we could to help, where possible, private institutions in their efforts to uphold their respective value systems. Unfortunately, I am unable to support this bill for the following reasons:

Currently in South Carolina, private colleges and universities may hire people that, after meeting certain training requirements, serve as campus police officers and have the same privileges to enforce South Carolina law as state-employed police – including the power to arrest or detain suspects and to issue traffic citations. Campus police are also authorized to enforce the school's rules and policies. Despite campus police's broad authority, current state law limits the jurisdiction of private police officers to the school's property. State police jurisdiction is similarly limited to the local jurisdiction's boundaries – in other words, Lexington County police officers have jurisdiction only within Lexington County. This legislation extends private school police authority from the private sphere to the public sphere by giving the campus police jurisdiction within 100 yards of the school's property, and by giving them jurisdiction while traveling related to a school-sponsored event or in performance of other school business.

The Honorable André Bauer

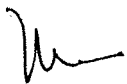
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The principle of private property rights is built on the idea that private citizens may enforce whatever rules they wish – within reason – on their own land, in their own homes or businesses - but they may not enforce those rules beyond their property's borders. We think private schools should be held to the same standard. By contrast, S. 19 expands private police jurisdiction far beyond the campus' boundaries by, for instance, allowing campus police from a private school in Charleston to write traffic citations in Greenville. Additionally, the bill gives private school police jurisdiction over neighborhoods and individuals *near* the campus – allowing campus police to enforce state law and “campus law” with regard to people who never consented to campus police jurisdiction and whose only connection to the school is that they live close to school-owned property.

So again, although we respect the work of private school police officers, we cannot support expanding private police jurisdiction to impact larger segments of the public. For these reasons, I am vetoing and returning without my approval S. 19, R. 137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Sanford', written in a cursive style.

Mark Sanford