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COMMITTEE:

Ways & Means

SUBCOMMITTEES

Higher Education
Sales, Use & Income Tax

South Carolina House of Representatives

April 29, 2026

Honorable Mark A. Keel
Chief
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
PO Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221-1398

Honorable J. Mark Hammond
South Carolina Secretary of State
Edgar Brown Bldg., Suite 525
State Capitol Complex
Columbia, SC 29201

Honorable Brian Lamkin
South Carolina Inspector General
111 Executive Drive, Suite 204
Columbia, SC 29210

Honorable Sue Moss
Interim State Auditor
1401 Main St., Suite 1200
Columbia, SC 29291

RE: South Carolina State University Foundation

Dear Chief Keel, Secretary Hammond, Inspector General Lamkin, and Interim State Auditor Moss,

After constituent inquiries and preliminary discussions with potentially interested parties, I write to request that you and your teams at SLED, the Secretary of State's Office, the Inspector General's Office, and the State Auditor's Office coordinate efforts to determine if the finances and the operations of the South Carolina State University Foundation [SCSUF] are appropriate and within the bounds of the law.

I have been informed that the South Carolina State University Foundation (SCSUF), a separate nonprofit entity that financially supports South Carolina State University, is reportedly engaging in activities lacking transparency. There are concerns about how it handles funds donated to support the University. SCSUF has recently retained legal counsel, seemingly to evade inquiries and ensure compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between the University and the Foundation. These activities may affect S.C. State's standing in the academic community and with the public at large.

The SCSUF website [<https://scstategives.org/about-us/>] describes their mission and role as:

The South Carolina State University Foundation's mission is to activate and engage the University's community of supporters by securing, managing, and distributing philanthropic investments to serve and support South Carolina State University's interests and priorities.

The foundation receives, manages, and distributes restricted and unrestricted endowment gifts, annual gifts, capital campaigns, planned giving, and other ongoing fundraising programs, all aimed toward building and maintaining outstanding programs here at South Carolina State University. The foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of business and community leaders who support South Carolina State University's vision to excel as a comprehensive university offering collaborative educational and research experiences. The Board of Directors works in partnership with the University to identify,

engage, and cultivate potential donors, and to honor South Carolina State University's many benefactors for their generous support.

Our foundation is classified as an independent 501(c)3 organization and is independently governed by our Board of Directors. While our primary function is, and always will be, supporting South Carolina State University, our operations are entirely independent of the college.

Filings with the Secretary of State's office list Stephen V. Beatty as the CEO of this organization, with his office in Lowman Hall on the SC State University campus. SCSUF reports \$22.24+ in total assets, annual receipts of \$8.3M, and fundraising expenses of \$1.1M. According to the SCSOS charity website, approximately 60% of donated funds are used to fulfill the missions outlined on the SCSUF website.

I specifically request that your agencies coordinate a review of the SCSUF financial and operational records for the following information:

1. SCSUF fails to provide itemized lists of its expenditures for any fundraising activities.
2. SCSUF potential misuse of charitable donations.
3. SCSUF has spent more than \$1.1M on charitable events without any detailed reports over the past three years.
4. SCSUF routinely purchases perquisites, novelties, giveaways, and other items for events, meals, and lodging without justification or providing reports to justify the expenditures.

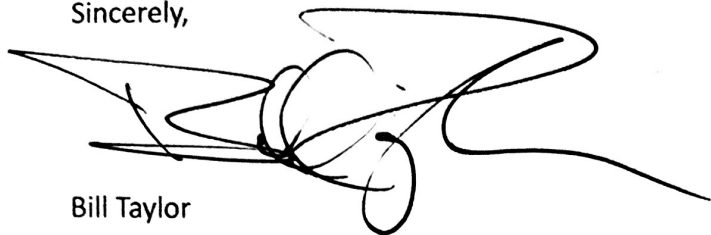
In addition to these financial concerns, I have also been made aware of the following:

- SCSFU is not issuing reports reflecting strategic goals to invest money and give back to the university.
- SCSFU is holding most of its meetings in Executive Session, without announcing the purpose of the executive session, and excluding the S.C. State University President and the S.C. State University Board of Trustees Chair from listening to any financial transaction discussions.
- SCSFU voted to remove the S.C. State University President from its Executive Committee without providing any minutes documenting this vote.
- SCSFU fails to provide S.C. State University with monthly, quarterly, or annual financial reports as required by governing bodies.
- SCSUF has failed to align with S.C. State University as is routinely done with other state-funded institutions in South Carolina.
- SCSFU has failed to respond to S.C. State University leadership and staff, as well as its contributors, for relevant information.
- SCSUF is failing to follow its own bylaws and governance protocols.
- SCSUF has removed its term limits for its Director and Officers that were established to prevent improprieties and self-dealing.

Although the Foundation is a separate entity, the reputation of S.C. State University hangs in the balance, as SCSUF is using university facilities and promoting its work to 'benefit' S.C. State University, while operating under a code of silence.

I request that you give this issue your immediate attention. Given the breadth of concern, I request that your agencies coordinate to investigate the substantial issues raised here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bill Taylor', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Bill Taylor

Copy: Governor Henry McMaster
S.C. House Speaker Murrell Smith
Chairman Bruce Bannister, House Ways & Means Committee
Chairwoman Shannon Erickson, House Education Committee
Douglas Gantt, Chairman, S.C. State University Board of Trustees
Alex Conyers, President, S.C. State University