

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Merita A. “Rita” Allison
Chairwoman, House Education and Public Works Committee
South Carolina House of Representatives
429 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: S.35—Reinforcing College Education on America’s Constitutional Heritage Act

Dear Chairwoman Allison:

I encourage you to support Senate Bill 35 (S.35) concerning the teaching of American government and our founding documents in the public colleges and universities in South Carolina.

The United States was founded on the belief that all men are created equal because we are endowed by our “Creator” with unalienable rights. These unalienable rights include the right to life and the freedom to worship God according to conscience. I support S.35 because it ensures our college students learn America’s founding documents that recognize and protect these rights.


For 95 years, South Carolina law has mandated that public colleges require students to take a year-long class on America’s founding documents: the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the *Federalist Papers*. Presently, most South Carolina colleges are violating this law by not requiring students to take a class on these documents

Earlier this year, the South Carolina Senate passed S.35 to modernize the 95-year-old South Carolina law to ensure public colleges comply with state law and teach students America’s founding documents.

Knowledge of America’s religious freedom protections is not something with which Americans are born, it must be learned. That is why it is important college students are taught the founding documents where these freedoms are recognized and protected: the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Any consideration you give to my request is greatly appreciated. I appreciate all that you do for our state and for public education.

Sincerely,



Joe Mack
Office of Public Policy
South Carolina Baptist Convention