



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
OF **CHARLESTON**

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April 29, 2019

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

**RE: S.35—The 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.

Society flourishes when all people can freely practice their religious beliefs. In our Country, we are blessed that the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment protects every American’s right to worship God according to his conscience. That is why we support students learning and understanding the principles of our founding documents and the religious freedom protections they provide.

S.35 modernizes South Carolina’s existing law that mandates that public colleges require students to take a class on America’s founding documents: the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Federalist Papers. Students are not born knowing these documents and the protections they provide for religious liberty—they must be taught and learned. S.35 is a positive measure and will positively affect the flourishing of society in the Palmetto State.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael F. Acquilano  
Director, Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston