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South Carolina House of Representatives

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Nathan Ballentine; The Honorable Gary E. Clary; The Honorable Raye Felder; The Honorable Mia S. McLeod; The Honorable Walton J. McLeod; The Honorable Robert L. Ridgeway, III; The Honorable James E. Smith, Jr.; The Honorable Tommy M. Stringer; and The Honorable Bill Taylor

FROM: Wm. Weston J. Newton
Chairman, House Legislative Oversight Committee

RE: Appointment to Ad Hoc Committee

DATE: September 3, 2015

In Committee Rule 7.1, the Committee recognizes its duties, jurisdiction, and responsibilities as a standing committee as enumerated in House Rule 4.2, House Rule 4.3, and S.C. Code of Laws Section 2-2-5 *et seq.* On August 26, 2015, at the full Committee meeting, a motion was adopted for the House Legislative Oversight Committee to begin an unscheduled study pursuant to the authority of S.C. Code of Laws Section 2-2-40. Specifically, the motion was adopted for the House Legislative Oversight Committee to commence an investigation into state agencies, including, but not limited to, Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Department of Health and Human Services, relationship with, funding of, and other activities relating to Planned Parenthood facilities and other abortion providers in South Carolina.

Our Committee Rules provide that the chairman shall determine which subcommittee shall handle the scheduled study or which Committee members shall serve on an ad hoc committee. Therefore, in my capacity as chairman and pursuant to the authority granted in Committee Rule 6.1, I am hereby appointing each of you to an ad hoc committee to undertake the study as stated in the motion. Additionally, pursuant to the authority granted in Committee Rule 6.2, I appoint the Honorable Gary E. Clary as chair of this ad hoc committee.

As this ad hoc committee goes about its task, and as thoroughly discussed at the August 26, 2015, meeting, I note it is not the purpose of this ad hoc committee to duplicate ongoing efforts of other state entities. For example, on August 18, 2015, the Governor made a request to the Department of Health and Environmental Control that it engage in a prompt and comprehensive investigation of the policies and practices of abortion clinics in our state, and further the Legislative Audit

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Council recently completed its [Review of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Regulation of Abortion Clinics](#) in May. To avoid duplicating existing efforts, I suggest that this ad hoc committee serve as a vehicle for the House Legislative Oversight Committee, and by extension the House of Representatives, to directly receive information being assembled by other state entities and to ask any questions about such information you may deem appropriate to ensure that state agencies and departments are responsive to the needs of citizens and to determine if laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly. In sharing these comments, I do not mean to limit the authority of the ad hoc committee in any way but rather to suggest a way that we may as a Committee lead by example in seeking efficiency.

In conclusion, as noted above, I have asked that the Honorable Gary E. Clary chair this ad hoc committee and coordinate its next steps with the assistance of our House Legislative Oversight Committee staff. Thank you for your service to the State of South Carolina and all of its citizens.

cc: The Honorable James H. Lucas
Speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives