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January 24, 2020

Lewis J. Swindler, Director
South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Academy
5400 Broad River Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29212

Via Email

RE: School Resource Officers

Dear Director Swindler:

The House Legislative Oversight Committee's Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee is currently performing an oversight study of the Department of Education. The purpose of legislative oversight is to determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether or not they should be continued, curtailed, or even eliminated. Any House Member may file legislation to implement the Committee's recommendations.

The purpose of this letter is to seek input from your office about school resources officers. Please respond to the questions below by Monday, March 9, 2020.

1. What are the requirements (e.g., background checks, specialized training for interaction with children, etc.) to become a school resource officer? What ongoing training/classes are required? How do these compare with requirements in other southeastern states?
2. To whom do school resource officer report? Who determines their job responsibilities?
3. What weapons, if any, are school resource officers authorized to carry on their persons while on a school campus?

Director Swindler
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4. Is the agency aware of any states that prohibit school resource officers from carrying any type of weapon on school campus?

Additionally, the subcommittee welcomes any other information your office would like to provide about school resources officers. Thank you and your team for your service to the people of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a faint, diagonal dotted line that extends from the left side of the page towards the right.

Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.

cc: Education and Cultural Subcommittee