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February 5, 2019

Pat G. Smith, Director
Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
3300 W Campus Rd
Columbia, South Carolina 29170

Dear Director Smith:

On behalf of the Education and Cultural Subcommittee, thank you, and your staff for your recent presentation to the Subcommittee relating to Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School's history, mission, legal directives, finances, and human resources. In preparation for our next meeting, please respond to the following by February 12, 2019:

Student Characteristics and Demographics

- Provide a breakdown of reasons why admitted students chose to apply to Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, for each of the last three school years.
- Provide the number of students attending Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, by home school district, for each of the last three school years.
- Provide student demographic information for each of the last three school years in the following categories: age, race, ethnicity, gender, and disability.
- Provide all of the above for the entire applicant pool.

Admissions Process

- Please provide a copy of the school's application.
- What is the school's admission's policy? What specific criteria are used to select students?
- What is considered an "extreme criminal background."

Marketing

- Provide a copy of the school's marketing or outreach plan.
- What is the cost per admitted student for each marketing strategy (e.g. number of students indicating learning about the school from a billboard divided by the cost of the billboards)?

Academics

- What is the expulsion rate?
- What is the withdrawal rate?
- What precipitates an expulsion?

Board Training

- Does the board training include guidance on the operation of a state agency (e.g. procurement procedures or state human resources regulations)?

Youth Challenge Comparison

- Distinguish Wil Lou Gray from the SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy. A starting point might be Youth ChalleNGe [website](#) and the information provided to the Committee during [the study of the Adjutant General's Office](#). Points of comparison include, but are not limited to, curriculum, goals, students/county, cost/student, GED completion rates, and student type served.

If these questions would yield responses that are not an accurate reflection of the agency or if additional time is needed to respond, please contact Committee staff. The Subcommittee looks forward to our next meeting, on February 12, 2019.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of South Carolina and for your continued cooperation with the legislative oversight process.

Sincerely,



Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Neal Collins
The Honorable Patricia Henegan
The Honorable Tommy M. Stringer