



February 4, 2020

Members of the South Carolina Senate
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, we urge the Senate to pass meaningful education reform.

Since 2017, more than \$10 billion in new capital investments and more than 35,000 new jobs have been announced in South Carolina. More South Carolinians are working than ever before, and we're experiencing continual growth in personal income. This type of economic prosperity is the direct result of our citizens' abilities, skills, and aptitude to thrive in increasingly technical jobs.

To remain economically competitive, we must ensure that the next generation of South Carolina's workers have the educational foundation that equips those individuals to thrive in the professions they choose to pursue. South Carolina must prioritize educational goals within our K-12 system that raise standards in reading and math, increase the number of students earning post-secondary credentials in high-demand professions, and support our frontline leaders – our teachers.

We ask that the Senate and members of the General Assembly support the following education reforms and initiatives:

- Increasing teacher salaries;
- Overhauling career pathways to align with in-demand careers;
- Statewide expansion of 4K for children living in low-income households;
- Allowing for the creation of multiple Schools of Innovation in districts;
- Implementing a stronger accountability system for chronically underperforming schools and districts;
- Establishing a statewide workforce readiness goal for increasing the number of South Carolinians with a post-secondary degree or credential;
- And strengthening Read to Succeed to ensure more students are reading on grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

The Governor and General Assembly deserve credit for making great strides to support our teachers, but we ask the Senate to focus its efforts on comprehensive reforms to give our



students a better opportunity for success. South Carolina's business community stands ready to work with you and is committed to supporting what's best for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sara Hazzard'.

Sara Hazzard
President & CEO
SC Manufacturers Alliance

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ted Pitts'.

Ted Pitts
President & CEO
SC Chamber of Commerce