



**The School District
of Greenville County**
Board of Trustees

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Dwight A. Loftis
South Carolina House of Representatives
P.O. Box 14784
Greenville, South Carolina 29610

Dear Representative Loftis:

As members of the Greenville County Schools Board of Trustees, we would like to once again express our opposition to the most recent version of the tuition tax deduction/credit bills introduced in the S.C. General Assembly, specifically H. 4894. While this bill differs slightly from those introduced in previous legislative sessions, it adds yet another tax exemption to a tax system which has been categorized as "plagued with structural deficiencies." Furthermore, the proposed legislation would decrease funding available for public schools and other public services by more than \$36 million, and clearly contradicts the spirit, if not the letter, of the South Carolina State Constitution which as elected officials you have sworn to uphold. For these reasons, and others, this legislation represents poor public policy and we urge you to oppose its passage.

For the past eight years, championed mainly by well-funded, out-of-state special interest groups, tuition tax deduction/voucher bills have been introduced in the South Carolina House of Representatives. Though they have failed to pass each year, they have served as a distraction from several key issues which demand your immediate attention. Issues like comprehensive tax reform, job creation, our beleaguered school bus transportation system and public education funding cannot continue to be pushed aside.

In fact, while the issues of tax credits for families with students in private schools or homeschools have dominated discussion among many in Columbia, little has been done from a state policy perspective to address the important issue of how to improve public education in our state and provide a quality education for every child.

For our state to move forward and prosper, we need your leadership focused on these issues. As elected school board members and constituents, we implore you to concentrate on those issues that most improve the quality of life of our citizens and defeat those issues, like H. 4894, which merely address the political agendas of a few.

Sincerely,

Roger D. Meek
Chairman

This letter was approved by the Board of Trustees on February 28, 2012