



REPRESENTATIVE LEON STAVRINAKIS
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For Immediate Release:

Please contact Rep. Stavrakis at leonstav@schouse.gov

Representative Leon Stavrakis issued the following statement today regarding the state budget:

"In the past 24 hours I have cast dozens of key votes but one vote was of utmost importance for the people of South Carolina. I joined a bi-partisan coalition voting against a terribly misguided budget that would eliminate over 1,700 teachers, balloon class sizes in our schools and return us to 1996 education funding levels.

In addition to the huge education cuts statewide, this budget also strips away an additional \$7-8 million dollars that by law belongs to Charleston County Schools. This is money to pay our teachers and educate our children here at home. Charleston County residents have paid more than their fair share of education taxes and I will not allow that money to be sent to other counties without a fight.

Adding insult to injury, this budget proposes to increase the budgets for the House of Representatives and the Senate while at the same time making these cuts to education, health care, special needs and public safety. The budget will only add to our unemployment rate and does nothing to create jobs or pull South Carolina out of this horrible recession

I want the public to know that I have offered solutions to this budget crisis that did not require a tax increase on the general public. The current crisis again highlights the critical need for government spending reforms in South Carolina."

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