



# State of South Carolina

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Gov. Sanford Endorses Charter School Reform Bill** **GOVERNOR PRAISES LEGISLATORS FOR MOVING** **FORWARD ON SCHOOL CHOICE**

**Columbia, S.C. – April 1, 2004** – Governor Mark Sanford today issued the following statement in support of the Charter School reform bill filed in the Senate yesterday by Sen. Larry Grooms and in the House of Representatives today by Speaker David Wilkins, Speaker Pro Tempore Doug Smith and Rep. Dwight Loftis:

“A major part of our campaign platform on education was to empower local communities that want to make a difference by taking a more active role in their children’s lives,” Gov. Sanford said. “That’s ultimately what charter schools are all about – parents taking responsibility and working to create a better educational environment for their kids. That’s something we ought to be encouraging parents to do in South Carolina as opposed to subjecting them to a bureaucratic nightmare. This bill is precisely the kind of fundamental education reform we talked about during the campaign and have continued to push for as an administration – a real opening up of the charter school process that will lead directly to more charter schools and a more competitive educational system in our state. I’d commend Speaker Wilkins, Rep. Smith, Rep. Loftis and Sen. Grooms for their leadership on this issue and would urge their colleagues in the General Assembly to get this bill to my desk so South Carolina can move forward in empowering parents with choice and kids with opportunity.”

The companion bills, H. 5040 and S. 1111 would establish a statewide charter school district to grant charters. The bills would also enable public charter schools in South Carolina to become eligible for millions of dollars in private and federal education grants.

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