



March 9, 2017

**TO: Members of the South Carolina House**

**RE: S.218 – Employee Benefits (Support)**

Dear Members:

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce supports the passage of S.218, a bill which would prevent political subdivisions of the state from imposing mandates upon private businesses to provide employee benefits such as paid sick leave, disability benefits, death benefits, paid time off, retirement benefits, and profit-sharing benefits. In effect, this bill reserves the right to establish and mandate such benefits to the General Assembly.

The business community believes that allowing employee benefits to be mandated at the state level provides job-creators with stability and consistency as they opt to locate in South Carolina and to expand to various locations throughout the state. Data from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) shows that “86% of employers already offer some form of paid sick leave to their employees.” Employers should have the ability to determine their benefits packages independently of restrictions by political subdivisions.

Please note that the **vote on S.218** will be considered for the Chamber’s *2017 Legislative Scorecard*.

For questions, please contact: *Mark Harmon, Vice President of Public Policy*, at [864-490-2138](tel:864-490-2138) or [mark.harmon@scchamber.net](mailto:mark.harmon@scchamber.net).