



January 26, 2017

TO: Members of the South Carolina Senate

RE: S.27 and S.137 – Superintendent of Education (Support)

Dear Members:

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce supports the passage of S.27 and S.137, bills which grant the Governor the authority to appoint the Superintendent of Education with the advice and consent of the Senate. S.137 is a joint resolution to amend the constitution to allow the Governor to appoint the Superintendent of Education, while S.27 serves as enabling legislation to provide for the terms, qualifications, and filling of vacancies in the office of the Superintendent of Education.

Creating the gubernatorial authority to appoint the Superintendent of Education will streamline state government and ultimately hold the Governor responsible for the state's K-12 education system. Including the Superintendent in the Governor's Cabinet streamlines state government: the Department of Education is an agency of the Executive Branch and should, therefore, answer to the Governor. Likewise, the people of South Carolina should hold the Governor accountable for the actions of the Superintendent.

Please note that the Chamber will score **your vote on S.27 and S.137** in the *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.