

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Ray Cleary
501 Gressette Building
South Carolina Senate
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Cleary:

As you are aware, in 2000 the South Carolina General Assembly created the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital Authority (MUHA). Since that time, MUHA has demonstrated to the Legislature the wisdom of this decision, by allowing the hospital to climb out of debt by operating more efficiently and effectively.

One noteworthy constraint of this legislation is that the University operations – those that relate to our teaching and research missions – were excluded by statute from the authority enterprise. This has resulted in an awkward situation in which our organization is forced to operate within two separate and distinct systems – one set of rules and procedures applies to the Hospital Authority and a completely different set of rules and procedures applies to the University. It is probably self-evident that we cannot perform as efficiently as we would hope to do in this dual operating mode. Virtually every operational function is separated between the two entities, resulting in unnecessary and burdensome duplication of effort.

We believe, and we hope that you agree, that over the past decade, we have demonstrated convincingly that we can operate with integrity and efficiency under the rules and procedures created for the Hospital Authority. In so doing, we hope to have earned the confidence and trust of the General Assembly and would like to build upon that record of accountability by now expanding the authority status to the University operations as a whole. At a minimum, we would appreciate the flexibility to have the Authority rules apply to our research and economic development activities. These are functions in which we need to move quickly to respond to the needs and expectations of the private sector. Moreover, we believe that considerable financial savings could be achieved in the human

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resource, contracting, and capital projects areas, as has been demonstrated by the Hospital Authority.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We are grateful for the support that the General Assembly has provided to us and we look forward to utilizing that support with the greatest possible efficiency and effectiveness.

Sincerely,



Raymond S. Greenberg, MD, PhD
President