



CITY OF BEAUFORT

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

I write to today to ask for your continued support of two important workforce development initiatives in our region. This year's state budget includes an appropriation that would allow continued work toward building a robust cybersecurity and healthcare workforce program in our region. As you know, both are areas of significant need across our nation, state, and Lowcountry. Thanks to your continued leadership and support, we are making significant headway in expanding access to training that directly connects with meaningful employment opportunities for the people of our state.

The City of Beaufort, working with a host of partners in the public and private sector created the South Coast Cyber Center approximately three years ago. We have created a collaborative model that includes all level of education, economic developers, local government, and the private sector. The requested funding will be used to invest in infrastructure, equipment, training, and curriculum to continue our expansion of cybersecurity training to ensure South Carolina has qualified and skilled talent to meet growing cyber threats. Combating bad actors that seek to exploit our digital assets will continue to be a challenge. A challenge that cannot be outsourced or offshored, we must continue to expand access to training and provide entrepreneurial opportunities. These funds will ensure the Lowcountry is prepared and doing our part.

We are also working with the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) and Beaufort Memorial Hospital to expand access to training in critical healthcare professions. Nationally, we do not have enough folks with the necessary skills to meet the healthcare needs of our people. Due to the rapid growth of the Lowcountry, this problem is exacerbated, especially since many of our new residents are of an older demographic. The appropriation will allow us to invest in infrastructure to train, test, and provide additional facilities. Not only will this allow us to expand the number of qualified personnel in critical healthcare jobs such as nursing, but it will also create pathways to high paying jobs that are necessary to allow working age residents the ability to live and thrive in the Lowcountry.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank you for your support of education and economic development across our great state. Both areas are critically important to the long-term success and sustainability of our state, and your leadership will leave a lasting impact for generations to come. Thank you for your support of our two local efforts this year. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information. We hope to see you soon in the 2nd oldest city in South Carolina.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen D. Murray III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "S" and "M".

Stephen D. Murray III
Mayor
City of Beaufort

cc: Representative Shannon Erickson
Senator Tom Davis