



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &  
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

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July 7, 2025

**VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable Curtis M. Loftis, Jr.  
South Carolina State Treasurer  
1200 Senate Street, Suite 214  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Treasurer Loftis:

I am writing on behalf of the House Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight Committee to formally request that your office proceed with the disbursement of funds from the Children’s Education Endowment Fund, as required by Section 48-46-40(E) of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

During the Committee’s review of the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission, questions arose regarding the status of the Children’s Education Endowment Fund. This inquiry led to your staff identifying a significant fund balance that, according to statute, is designated for Higher Education Scholarship Grants and Public School Facility Assistance.

As you are aware, the Children’s Education Endowment Fund was created to support these educational purposes and was originally funded through the Nuclear Waste Disposal Receipts Distribution Fund, which received revenues from nuclear waste disposal fees collected at the Chem-Nuclear Systems facility in Barnwell County.

Pursuant to Section 48-46-40(E):

- The first two million dollars of revenue collected each fiscal year are to be distributed to the Barnwell County Treasurer;

- Revenues in excess of two million dollars must be deposited into the Nuclear Waste Disposal Receipts Distribution Fund;
- After deducting amounts needed for generator rebates, the remaining funds are to be transferred by the State Treasurer into the Children's Education Endowment Fund.

Although the revenue stream ceased following the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the Budget and Control Board, the Department of Revenue, and Chem-Nuclear Systems that transitioned the facility to break-even operations, the Fund continues to carry a substantial balance.

As discussed at the June 26, 2025, meeting with Committee staff, your office confirmed that the last disbursement from the Children's Education Endowment Fund occurred in 2013. As of May 31, 2025, the fund held a balance of \$4,171,287.41—funds that remain legally obligated to be used for their intended educational purposes.

In light of the clear statutory directive and the ongoing needs of South Carolina's students and public education system, we respectfully request that your office take immediate steps to disburse these funds in accordance with the law. We also ask that you provide the Committee with an update on the anticipated timeline and process for distribution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you require additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson  
Committee Chairman  
Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight