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**Committee:**  
Medical, Military, Public and  
Municipal Affairs, 3<sup>rd</sup> VC

**House of  
Representatives**  
State of South Carolina

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Henry McMaster  
Governor, State of South Carolina  
1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

I was saddened to learn of the recent sudden death from COVID-19 complications of Ms. Demi Bannister, a third grade teacher at Windsor Elementary in Richland Two school district. Knowing that she had just been in the facility around other school staff one week prior to testing positive for this deadly virus gives me great concern for the health and well-being of all students and school employees. I am aware that district custodians thoroughly sanitized the school before students entered but I worry about those educators and support staff that were exposed.

It is my request that you intervene and eliminate in person instruction and provide for virtual learning only until the medical experts and epidemiologists can have more time to research and the number of positive cases become significantly lower. We have already seen positive improvements because of an increase of people wearing masks while in public. If we continue to tackle this problem head on with vigilant countermeasures, we will all be more safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

*Wendell G. Gilliard*

Wendell G. Gilliard  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
District 111-Charleston

cc: The Honorable Molly Spearman, Superintendent, South Carolina Department of Education