

Every politician makes promises on the campaign trail. But how do voters know that their candidate will actually do what he or she says they're going to do? We see what happens to politicians when they get to DC—how each and (almost) every one is sucked into the Swamp. In South Carolina, our Swamp is known as the “good-ol-boy” system. Most Republican politicians break our hearts and their promises. In this short letter to you, I hope to explain the legislative challenges we face, we who are elected to public office and truly trying to subvert the ruling system.

We all would like to believe we have the courage to do what is right, but we cannot find out the truth about ourselves until we are under actual pressure and adversity. In Columbia, people put their arm around you, wine and dine you, remind you it is a team sport, and surround you with encouragement, support, and kindness. Just make sure to vote yes on Hate Crimes, give illegal aliens occupational licenses, hand out \$1.3 Billion to woke companies, fight against defunding DEI in our universities, subsidize horse gambling, etc. etc.

If you go against the system, GOP leadership will coordinate with lobbyists and special interests to go after you. You will be mocked, marginalized, lied about, threatened, and dark money will blanket your district with text messages, direct mail pieces, and internet ads claiming you want to arm felons, you support abortions, you destroy jobs, you hate teachers, and you get your marching orders from the D.C. Swamp.

My 10-year-old son saw an attack ad on his school computer and came home to ask me why it was saying bad things about me. When you go to Columbia to fight for Conservative values, expect Columbia to fight back – and just know, they hit hard.

The SC state legislature is by far the most powerful entity in the state, much more so than the Governor. The legislature selects Supreme Court Justices, for example. Who do you think keeps the Liberals that support abortions in this state on the bench? And yet, the legislators who run things in SC are the equivalent of Olympic gymnasts when it comes to making excuses. They make sure things stay the way they are—and get worse for folks like you and me—but they always have someone else to blame.

The giant electronic voting board at the State House is a bright light which confirms truth and fiction. The voting board separates Conservatives from RINOs. But even more so, the votes taken in committee—or not taken—really tell you what's going on. Unfortunately, the committee events are much harder to track. But, for example, I have many many bills filed which will never come to a vote because they will never get through committee. Some of the most important ones are about protecting our children from threats to their innocence. Those, especially, will never be heard—at least, not with the folks who are in charge now.

In the past, there were not enough Conservatives in the House to force debate on bad bills and amendments. In 2023 we coordinated before every session and used House Floor rules to force debate and votes. A fun fact is that my nickname at the State House is, “Roll Call”. I put on my old army command voice, and boom “Roll Call” across the large room when the situation calls for transparency. Because I am so loud, the Speaker of the House cannot claim he did not hear me. Instead, he looks for at least 10 raised hands to support my wish to have votes placed on the giant electronic voting board. Those ten or more raised hands demanding transparency and the votes to be placed on the electronic board for public record always belong to my fellow members of the South Carolina Freedom Caucus.

For all the things politicians claim to be, Courage is the one virtue that cannot be counterfeited, and it is the single virtue that highlights all hypocrisy.

It is my personal belief and philosophy that there is a God, and that he gave us our natural and inalienable rights, as outlined in the Declaration of Independence. My job as a legislator is to conserve those rights. If a policy protects those Rights, I know it will be a good law. My fellow members of the Freedom Caucus feel the same way. We need your support. We are under constant attack, and we will all face primary challenges next year. But more than that, we need likeminded Conservatives to run for office, so that one day, we're the ones in the majority in South Carolina.