



## South Carolina House Democratic Caucus

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 25, 2005**

**Contact: Kelly Adams**

[adamsk@scstatehouse.net](mailto:adamsk@scstatehouse.net)

**803-309-4830**

### ***STATEMENT FROM HOUSE MINORITY LEADER HARRY OTT ON GOVERNOR'S VETOES***

COLUMBIA, SC--Members of the South Carolina House Democratic Caucus vowed to protect the best interest of the people of South Carolina, unlike Governor Mark Sanford. Sanford's 149 vetoes, 14 from his own Executive Budget, would negatively affect the nearly 4 million residents of South Carolina.

"The actions of the members of the South Carolina House are commendable," said Rep. Harry Ott, Minority Leader (D-Calhoun). "Together we, the SC House of Representatives, unanimously approved a \$5.7 budget this year that fully funded education, restored 40 of the 58 trust funds, and increased pay for law enforcement by 10%," Ott continued.

If sustained, Sanford's vetoes would affect several state programs, impacting thousands of men, women, and children. Sadly, the Poison Control Center was one of the programs targeted by the Governor. The Governor vetoed \$200,000 allocated to the Poison Control Center. Through its nurses and pharmacists, the Poison Control Center provides preventative and emergency care, and saves the states millions. In 2004 alone, the Center served over 37,000 individuals and saved countless lives. "This veto is potentially devastating," said Ott. "By reducing state funds the Poison Control Center stands to lose \$250,000 in matching federal funds. Our citizens deserve better."

#####