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SC Court of Appeals

VORDMAN CARLISLE TRAYWICK, III

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February 3, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings  
Clerk of Court  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
1220 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
ctappfilings@sccourts.org

Re: The School of Hope Christian Academy v. South Carolina Department of Social Services  
App. Case No. 2024-001088

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Pursuant to Rule 208(b)(7), SCACR, Respondent South Carolina Department of Social Services submits this notice of supplemental authority to aid the Court's consideration of this matter.

On January 14, 2026, the Court issued an unpublished opinion in *The School of Hope Christian Academy v. South Carolina Department of Education*, Op. No. 2026-UP-011 (S.C. Ct. App. filed Jan. 14, 2026). Because Appellants did not seek rehearing, the Court's decision is now final. See Rule 221(a), SCACR (stating the Court must receive a petition for rehearing 15 days after the opinion). There, the Court affirmed the circuit court's grant of summary judgment to the Department of Education, finding the doctrine of collateral estoppel barred Appellants' claims.<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 2–3. Respondent therefore cites this opinion in further support of the argument on pages 6–11 of its Initial Brief.

We appreciate the Court's time and attention to this matter.

With warmest regards, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Vordman Carlisle Traywick, III

cc: Counsel of Record

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent is aware "unpublished" opinions "have no precedential value and should not be cited except in proceedings in which they are directly involved." Rule 268(d)(2), SCACR. Under these unique circumstances, however, this proceeding is "directly involved" because Respondent, in part, relied on the Department of Education's decision in rendering its findings. See Cir. Ct. Order Gr. Summ. J. at 2.