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May 12 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

Dear Chairman Rankin, Subcommittee Chairman Elliott, and Senators Campsen, Kimbrell, Tedder, and Devine,

On behalf of Family Services, Inc. d/b/a Origin SC, I write to express our support of S.818.

Origin SC is a South Carolina nonprofit organization that was formed in 1888 as the Associated Charities Society and was later incorporated in 1955 as The Family Service Agency. Its mission is to provide human services needed to empower South Carolinians to achieve financial, housing, and mental health stability through advocacy, counseling, and education. We are based in North Charleston and have a statewide reach, but our biggest impact is in the Charleston Tri-County area.

Origin SC provides counseling services and workshops on topics like homeownership, housing stability, financial literacy, mental health, anger management, and other life-management issues. The overwhelming majority of clientele for which Origin SC provides its fiduciary services are some of South Carolina's most in-need citizens. These South Carolinians are most often not citizens of means, instead they find themselves in dire circumstances with nowhere else to turn for help managing all aspects of their lives - from housing and mental health to challenges associated with aging and disability. Origin SC fills a critical gap in the lives of these citizens who may otherwise find themselves homeless and destitute.

As part of these services, Origin SC also serves as a professional fiduciary for the full suite of fiduciary needs: conservator, personal representative, trustee, and power of attorney agent. Origin SC typically provides its professional fiduciary services at the appointment of, direction of, and supervision of courts, and of the Probate Court in particular.

In 2025, Origin SC provided services (including counseling, fiduciary, and support) for nearly 3900 South Carolinians in need across all 46 counties, and it currently has over 600 active cases for which it provides fiduciary services. It does not provide any banking services, nor does it invest money in "common trust funds" as a bank or investment firm might. Yet, the Board of Financial Institutions recently contacted Origin SC and claimed that is subject to the agency's regulatory jurisdiction as a "trust business." The agency has demanded that Origin SC provide access to all manner of client data and internal records.

Origin SC has provided services to South Carolinians for over 125 years without any suggestion that it is or should be regulated by the Board of Financial Institutions. Not only is the agency's overreach unfairly intrusive and an improper invasion of our clients' private information, being subject to regulation as a "trust business" would be detrimental to Origin SC and the numerous South Carolinians it serves.

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Family Services, Inc. is now Family Services, Inc. DBA Origin SC



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Companies that engage in “trust business”—which, until the agency’s recent attempt to regulate Origin SC, has been understood to mean investing money in common trust funds, as contemplated by South Carolina Code § 34-21-210 *et seq.*—have to pay tens of thousands of dollars in fees annually to the Board of Financial Institutions, and they have to hold hundreds of thousands of dollars in reserves. Origin SC is not a bank, it does not invest money in common trust funds, and it should not be subject to the enormous financial consequences and invasion of privacy of this regulatory overreach. Judges of the Probate Court who appoint Origin SC to provide fiduciary services to its clients are fully equipped and do in fact provide fulsome oversight regarding those services.

To ensure that the Board of Financial Institutions no longer reaches outside of its jurisdictional boundaries, Origin SC supports S.818, which makes clear that “trust business” involves the investment of money in common trust funds and does not reach organizations like Origin SC that provide professional fiduciary services for South Carolinians in need.

Thank you for your consideration.



Tracy Strickland
CEO

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