

Statement from USC Upstate regarding proposed funding cut due to “Out Loud: The Best of Rainbow Radio”

The fact that South Carolina legislators want to withhold \$17,142 in funding from USC Upstate because they disagree with the selected text for a first-year reading program is very disheartening. From the University perspective this action is punishing the very students the legislators claim to be protecting in the first place. USC Upstate has realized an almost 50% reduction in state appropriations since the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Any additional funding cut places further burden on our 5,500 students, and makes it even more difficult to remain accessible and affordable to the South Carolina citizens we serve.

Regardless of the Legislature’s final decision, USC Upstate is committed to remaining accessible and affordable to the people of South Carolina. To target funding for a particular program because it doesn’t align with certain beliefs and judging it in terms of specific content instead of the discussions the content promotes is perhaps a bit shortsighted. Indeed, controversial issues are essential in creating levels of discussion and student engagement that cannot be generated otherwise. We see such engagement as essential to the educational process.