



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 12, 2007

**CONTACT**

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In response to today's ruling by Judge Thomas W. Cooper Jr. regarding the school funding equity lawsuit, South Carolina First Steps Executive Director Susan DeVenny has issued the following statement:

"As the state's early childhood agency, South Carolina First Steps remains committed to helping South Carolina leaders meet the challenge set forth by Judge Thomas W. Cooper Jr.," said South Carolina First Steps Executive Director Susan DeVenny. "I applaud the General Assembly for its 4-year-old kindergarten expansion efforts, and I also applaud members' growing commitment to children ages birth to 3 years old."

For media inquiries or to arrange an interview with DeVenny, please contact Public Information Officer Lisa Michals at (803) 734-0867.

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*South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is a comprehensive, results-oriented statewide education initiative to help prepare children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed. Public and private support is combined through county partnerships to enable individual communities to address the unmet needs of young children and their families.*