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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Tom Fernandez (*R-Berkeley*) issued the following statement today regarding his remarks during the Senate debate on Senate Bill 244:

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Today on the Senate floor, I spoke openly about the pressures surrounding S. 244, including statements to me made by individuals on both sides of the debate. Interested parties for and against the bill have indicated their willingness to host fundraisers on my behalf, however, I did not perceive these offers as a *quid-pro-quo* in exchange for my vote on this bill, nor do I believe that was the intention of those interested parties. I did not intend to accuse anyone of wrongdoing, but to simply highlight the realities of how legislative debates unfold, publicly and behind the scenes. Out of respect for the Senate and to maintain decorum, I agreed to discontinue that line of questioning, but I remain committed to fighting for policies that serve the people.

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