



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## **Lawsuit Filed Against City of Charleston Over Calhoun Monument - SC House Members Threaten to Withhold Local Funding**

The American Heritage Association's (AHA) mission is to protect our national memory and halt the politization and canceling of our American story. Descendants of John C. Calhoun and descendants of members of the Ladies Calhoun Monument Association (association) have filed a lawsuit with the Charleston County Probate Court against the City of Charleston.

The lawsuit asserts that the John C. Calhoun monument was given to the city by the association to hold in trust. In 1898 Charleston City Council passed a resolution to receive the monument, which states in part, "City Council gratefully accepts with high honor and the responsibilities which it involves and pledges the faith of the city to watch over and keep it as a priceless treasure and sacred trust." The lawsuit further asserts that when the city removed the statue and demolished its pillar and base in 2020, it violated the trust agreement.

In January, City Council is considering a proposal to send the monument to California as part of a museum's request to include the statue in a new exhibit that explores "the physical manifestations of the Lost Cause Belief," according to media accounts that aired in November.

"The American Heritage Association is proud to assist the petitioners with payment of legal fees. This is a South Carolina monument, paid for by South Carolinians, and it needs to stay in South Carolina," stated Brett Barry, AHA President.

State Representative Lin Bennett (R-Charleston) has informed the AHA that she will be introducing a bill on the first day of the 2022 session that would potentially cut millions in state funding to the City of Charleston if they move the monument to California. "People are tired of Mayor Tecklenburg's woke crusade. A South Carolina monument does not belong in California," stated Bennett. Local Charleston State Representatives Joe Bustos and Mark Smith have also announced their intention to co-sponsor the legislation, and State Treasurer Curtis Loftis has expressed his support for keeping the monument in South Carolina as well.

*The American Heritage Association is a non-profit based in Charleston, SC which is dedicated to the preservation of America's national memory and the principles upon which it was founded.*

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