

# SCCA Legislative Brief



SCCA's Advocacy In Action Team is working over-time since the SC Legislative Session began in January! Here is an update on what we're working on and how **YOU** can help:

## H3784 - Counseling Compact

What It Is	What We're Doing	What YOU Can Do
<p><b>An inter-state compact that would improve portability for licensed counselors and increase access to mental health care for veterans, rural communities and senior citizens. The compact has already been enacted in 17 states.</b></p> <p><b>** Compact legislation has also been referred to committee in the state senate, bill # S610 **</b></p>	<p>ACA has provided a legislative specialist to help SC enter the Counseling Compact, we are also in contact with the Dept. of Defense to aide in judicial conversations.</p> <p>SCCA has contacted all members of the Medical &amp; Military Affairs Committee to express support and urgency to move the compact bill forward. SCCA is also targetting co-sponsors with a strong legislative record and pro-counselor agenda. Meetings are scheduled well into next week with various Representatives from the M3 Committee.</p> <p>SCCA is working with others to coordinate efforts on the senate bill as well.</p>	<p>Contact M3 Representatives to express your support of Bill H3784!</p> <p>Use this link - click on each members' name and you are able to send a message: <a href="https://www.scstatelibrary.org/house/CommitteeInfo/house3M.php">https://www.scstatelibrary.org/house/CommitteeInfo/house3M.php</a></p> <p>Make your messages friendly but personal - kept it short and sweet.</p>

## H3730 - Millstone Act of 2023

What It Is	What We're Doing	What YOU Can Do
<p><b>A bill that aims to criminalize health care providers for "gender-affirming care." Penalties include up to 5 years imprisonment and licensure revocation, repayment of fees.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>This bill is specific to state facilities and/or state-wide insurance programs.</b></li> <li>● <b>This bill is specific to any one under the age of 26.</b></li> <li>● <b>Individual seeking to bring a claim have up to 40 years post-treatment to do so.</b></li> </ul>	<p>SCCA will be in contact with sponsors of this bill to express concerns around discrimination of transgender clients and unequal access to mental health care. Specific concerns are in reference to the breadth of the "gender-affirming care" definition provided.</p> <p>Sponsors of this bill are the same as Bill H3515 (Entrepreneur Freedom Act).</p> <p>SCCA will continue to track this legislation.</p>	<p>Contact Primary Sponsors of this bill to express your specific concerns:</p> <p>Rep. Thomas Beach - ThomasBeach@schouse.gov   (803) 212 6931</p> <p>Rep. Stewart Jones - stewartjones@schouse.gov   (803) 212 673</p>

## *S. 408 Suicide Prevention Training*

What It Is	What We're Doing	What YOU Can Do
<p><b>A bill that would require one hour of suicide prevention training as part of continuing education requirements to maintain a SC license to practice.</b></p>	<p>SCCA is in support of Senator Shealy's bill and will provide testimony if needed!</p> <p>We will be tracking this legislation in the final months of this legislative session.</p>	<p>Contact your local senator and express support for S.408.</p> <p>Have personal testimony to provide? Send it to us at southcarolinacounselingassoc@gmail.com</p>

## *Stay Updated*

Stay updated with legislative happenings by following us on social media and checking your email for our bi-weekly e-newsletter!

[twitter.com/scca\\_sc](https://twitter.com/scca_sc)

[instagram.co/southcarolinacounselingassoc](https://www.instagram.com/southcarolinacounselingassoc)

Search "South Carolina Counseling Association" on [LinkedIn](#)

[www.sccounselor.org/advocacy](http://www.sccounselor.org/advocacy)

## Advocacy In Action Meetings

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SCCA's Advocacy In Action Team will meet with it's Medicaid Advocacy Committee on March 31st at 11:00 am via Zoom. If you're interested and would like to attend, send us a message at [southcarolinacounselingassoc@gmail.com](mailto:southcarolinacounselingassoc@gmail.com)!

We are already creating advocacy priorities for the next legislative session - send us your comments and concerns on social media or via email - we are here for you!

Yours In Service,

*Chandler E. Cox*

Chandler Cox *M.Ed., LPC*

SCCA President

SCCA Advocacy In Action Team Chair