



# South Carolina Counseling Association

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

March 03, 2026

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ATTN: SCCA

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We are writing to oppose House Bill 3021 and the proposed 25% roll back on regulations to our licensing boards. As clinicians and providers in the behavioral health fields, regulations around our license, ethics and scope of practice are essential to maintaining quality care for the citizens of South Carolina. We want all citizens in our state to have access to competent, clinically trained and ethical professionals during their times of need. While our licensing regulations and requirements may seem over-burdensome to you, they are essential to a) make sure that SC families receive safe, ethical and effective care and b) to maintain our professional standards and eliminate "bad actors" in our professions.

Behavioral Health providers often work with those experiencing a range of challenges from disability to severe mental illness, and without proper oversight vulnerable individuals could be harmed by unqualified or unethical providers. These regulations serve to safeguard the public from harm. They establish minimum education, training and supervised experience requirements. Behavioral Health providers are entrusted with deeply personal information and may be involved in high-risk situations like suicide risk assessment, child welfare concerns, or mental health crisis interventions. The current license regulations ensure that providers understand clinical best practices, confidentiality laws, risk assessment and ethical responsibilities.

Current license regulations also ensure that clinicians meet consistent and standardized qualifications. Regulatory boards have the authority to investigate complaints and discipline providers who violate these professional standards. This accountability is what protects the public from exploitation, fraud, negligence or other harmful treatment by "bad actors." Without these regulations in place, there would be little recourse for individuals harmed by unethical or unqualified providers.

In Behavioral Health improper treatment may worsen symptoms, delay recovery or create additional trauma. A licensed professional, endorsed by the State of SC, has demonstrated the ability to assess accurately, develop appropriate and safe treatment interventions, and monitor client progress. When citizens seek Behavioral Health services they must feel confident that their provider is qualified and accountable. Licensure signals that a clinician is trustworthy and that oversight will protect them.

For these reasons, we urge you to reconsider the implications of House Bill 3021. We would like to suggest an amendment that would exclude Behavioral Health boards from this bill. This includes: Counselors, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists and Social Workers.

Yours In Service, *Chandler Cox-Bergman*

SCCA Advocacy In Action Team Chair  
SCCA Past-President