

SCCA Legislative Brief



The SC State Legislature has adjourned! SCCA's Advocacy In Action will continue work until the next session opens January 09, 2024. See a full report from this year's session and our goals for next year below:

2023 Progress Report

- SCCA teamed up with the *SC Behavioral Health Coalition*, an advocacy super-group comprised of professionals from psychology, psychiatry, speech language pathology, addiction professionals, school psychology and more!
 - The SC Behavioral Health Coalition met once monthly to focus on professional advocacy during the SC legislative session.
 - The SC Behavioral Health Coalition defeated *H.3515 The Entrepreneur Freedom Act* aimed at de-regulating our profession and eliminating professional licensure.
- The *Counseling Compact* is on the move!
 - The Counseling Compact cleared the SC Senate and is currently in Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee of the SC House!
 - SCCA will continue advocacy on the compact with a vigorous committee campaign beginning in January! [Follow bill progress here.](#)
- SCCA joined the *SC Coalition for Safer Schools*, a cross-sector advocacy group focused on school safety and SC students' mental health. SCCA participated in the SC Coalition for Safer Schools Hill Day in February 2023, meeting with various SC Representatives and Senators to discuss student mental health and the importance of our school counselors.
- SCCA's President & Advocacy In Action Team Chair Chandler Cox was recognized by the *American Counseling Association* for leadership and advocacy in the southern region!

2024 Goals

- **Medicaid Advocacy:** SCCA loves to hear from our members, and we have been hearing A LOT about challenges with Medicaid billing and audit practices. SCCA's Advocacy In Action Team is currently work on advocacy for audit process changes and more rights for Medicaid providers.

- **Military Advocacy:** SCCA is working on advocacy efforts to increase TRICARE providers in South Carolina and advocating for increasing the LPC presence in VA clinical settings.
- **Extending Student Loan Forgiveness to Counselors:** SCCA aims to work with our national counterparts to extend federal student loan forgiveness to qualifying mental health professionals - school and clinical settings included!
- **Best Practices for Counseling During Custody Issues:** SCCA is seeking partnership with USC Children's Law Center and other agencies to create a best practices manual for counselors in SC who are counseling a minor experiencing on-going custody challenges.

Stay Updated

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

twitter.com/scca_sc

instagram.co/southcarolinacounselingassoc

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

www.sccounselor.org/advocacy

Advocacy In Action Meetings

SCCA's Advocacy In Action Team will meet via Zoom on Thursday July 13th at 10:00 am. If you're interested and would like to attend, send us a message at southcarolinacounselingassoc@gmail.com!

Yours In Service,



Chandler Cox *M.Ed., LPC*

SCCA President

SCCA Advocacy In Action Team Chair