

SOUTH CAROLINA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

2026 Legislative Priorities



WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS



Medical Malpractice / Tort Reform Revisions - S.244, H.4544

SC hospitals are seeking revisions to the definition of an occurrence, the removal of gross negligence, and the inclusion of the same protections in the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act in addition to the Tort Claims Act.



Protect Healthcare Workers from Assault and Violence - S.346, H.3093, H.3392, H.4763

Support legislation that establishes specific criminal offenses and enhanced penalties for assault and battery committed against healthcare professionals.



Continued Funding for SCWINS, CHE Nursing Initiative, and new funding for Allied Health Initiative

Implement salary enhancements for allied health faculty salaries, loan forgiveness, tuition assistance, as well as program expansion incentive efforts to promote innovations to rapidly increase the number of seats in allied health programs.

BUDGET STABILITY



Support full funding for the SCDHHS budget request to cover increased costs to maintain current services and cover the traditional Medicaid population, despite lost revenues due to declining cigarette tax dollars

SCDHHS is requesting \$102.6 million in recurring general funds, to maintain the current level of coverage for beneficiaries.

\$53 million in general funds for federally required Medicare premium increases for dually eligible Medicaid members.

\$47 million in general funds to support the state's home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver programs.



Request enhanced funding for SCDPH and the SC Trauma Care Fund

Seek additional funding to the SC Trauma Fund to support an increasing population. These funds help to cover the high costs of trauma care for hospitals, physicians, and prehospital services, and improve care availability statewide.



New funding for SCDPH to contract with hospitals for emergency preparedness response teams for medical needs shelters

Support DPH's request for \$10,142,000 for the implementation and operation of medical need shelters and the Disaster Readiness Fund.



SC OMH Alternative Transportation

Support BHDD's request for \$2,650,000 in recurring funds to support the Alternative Transportation program.

OTHER PRIORITY LEGISLATION



1. Flexibility for Emergent Use of Hallway Beds
2. Telehealth Access and Sustainability
3. Surgical Technologist Certification
4. Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
5. 340B Contract Pharmacy Protections
6. Rural Emergency Hospital Designation
7. Alternative Transportation
8. PBM Reform

Austin Smallwood
Executive Director, Public
Policy & Regulatory Affairs
asmallwood@scha.org

Evelyn Tucker
Director, State Government
Relations
etucker@scha.org