

January 22, 2026

## The Honorable Heath Sessions

South Carolina House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Chairman Sessions:

On behalf of the South Carolina Physician Alliance (SCPA), which represents physicians from across our state, I write to express our strong opposition to **House Bill 4262**, which would **prohibit licensed healthcare professionals in South Carolina from administering “synthetic mRNA-based gene therapies”**—including vaccines—and impose stiff penalties for noncompliance.

## The Key Concerns

### 1. Unjustified Government Overreach

HB4262 categorically bans a wide class of FDA-authorized treatments—including mRNA vaccines—and empowers licensing boards to penalize providers with mandatory minimum one-year suspensions.

- **Medical innovation and clinical discretion** would be stifled, as physicians are denied the authority to prescribe proven, life-saving therapies.
- The state would be making medical determinations better suited to **Federal regulators and treating professionals**, undermining established standards of care and professional autonomy.

### 2. Jeopardizes Patient Access and Public Health

By broadly restricting mRNA-based treatments, the bill would:

- **Limit access** to vaccines and other therapeutics that have been critical in managing infectious disease, potentially reversing public health gains.
- Inhibit health systems from offering **cutting-edge care**, reducing our ability to respond quickly to emerging diseases through novel technologies.

### 3. Safety & Oversight Already in Place

HB4262’s rationale includes unfounded concerns about “adulterants,” long-term safety, and “shedding” risks—claims not substantiated by robust scientific evidence.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and professional medical societies rigorously evaluate safety and efficacy before any approval or guidance is issued.
- Repackaging hypothetical risks into law undermines **evidence-based regulation** and injects **political bias** into clinical decision-making.

#### 4. Undermines South Carolina’s Health Infrastructure

Mandatory reporting and increased penalties create a chilling effect:

- Hospitals and staff will become susceptible to disciplinary action for complying with federal-best practices.
- In rural and underserved areas—where hospital staffing is already fragile—this could worsen workforce scarcity and restrict access to routine and emergency care.

#### Core Principle: Medical Decision Integrity

At its heart, HB4262 erodes the core principle that **medical decisions should be made by licensed healthcare professionals based on evidence—not by legislators imposing blanket mandates**. This represents an unwarranted intrusion into the physician-patient relationship and threatens the ability of hospitals to deliver the highest standard of care.

#### Conclusion & Call to Action

The South Carolina Hospital Association respectfully urges you to oppose HB4262. Doing so will:

- Preserve **clinical autonomy** and innovation in South Carolina;
- Support **safe, timely access** to medical advancements;
- Reinforce public trust in evidence-based healthcare;
- Safeguard the **integrity of the physician-patient relationship**.

We appreciate your leadership and are available to discuss any questions. Let us work together to ensure health policy in our state remains grounded in science and respects provider discretion.

Sincerely,

**Brent M. Powers, MD, MBA, FACP, FACHE**  
**President**  
South Carolina Physician Alliance

**Matthew Johnson, MD, MBA**  
**Chair of Physician Policy Council**  
South Carolina Physician Alliance

*Brent Powers*

Brent Powers (Feb 6, 2026 10:32:01 EST)

*Matthew Johnson*

Cc: Members of the House Medical and Health Affairs subcommittee, including Representative Thomas Beach, Representative Christopher Hart, Representative Scott Montgomery, Representative JA Moore