



# **SOUTH CAROLINA ONCOLOGY SOCIETY**

## **POLICY UPDATE**

Holly Pisarik

Senior Vice-President of Advocacy and Policy Counsel

South Carolina Medical Association

# MAJOR HEALTHCARE BILLS FROM 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Certificate of Need/Elimination of Non-Compete Agreements
- Telemedicine
- Scope of Practice Expansion for Mid-Level Providers
- Pharmacy Benefit Manager Regulation
- Abortion
- Legalization of Medical Marijuana
- DHEC Reorganization
- Sunscreen at Schools





## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Elimination of Non-Compete Agreements
- Fight against expansion of scope of practice
- Telemedicine – Parity in Pay
- Use of term doctor

# LEGISLATIVE PROCESS REMINDER

- House
- Senate
- Governor
- Subcommittee – Testimony
- Committee Structure
- Three Readings
- Conference Committee to Resolve Differences



# SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE DYNAMICS

**124 Members – 20 women, 104 men**

- 88 Republicans
- 36 Democrats
- Out of 88 Republicans, only 72 in caucus
- 16 are Freedom Caucus
- 2/3 are veto proof

Committee Assignments are made by Speaker  
Committee Chair are selected by Committee

# SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE DYNAMICS

## 46 Senators – 5 women, 41 men

- **30 Republicans**

The South Carolina Senate Republican Caucus is working to advance state policy that encourages economic prosperity, addresses the state's critical needs, builds a business-friendly climate and creates a better South Carolina for all citizens.

- **15 Democrats**

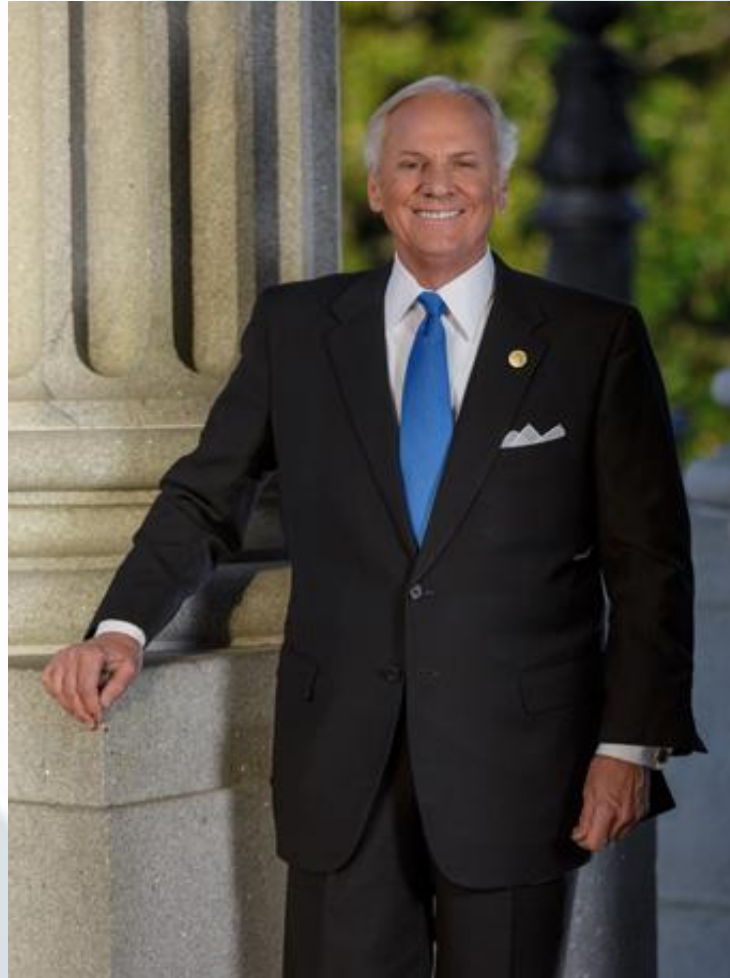
The South Carolina Senate Democratic Caucus has played an important role in many of the historic legislative accomplishments by our state. From defending the fundamental rights of all South Carolinians, to pushing for a better and safer future for the Palmetto State, Senate Democrats have always been change-makers and champions for progress.

- **1 Independent**

## Committee Appointments

- Senate Chairmen are selected based on seniority
- Assignments are made by President of Senate but with seniority

# SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR



# SOUTH CAROLINA AGENCIES

- 19 are Cabinet agencies
  - Directors appointed by Governor
  - SC Board of Medical Examiners part of SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation which is a Cabinet agency
  - DHHS, Medicaid, Cabinet agency
  - DAODAS is a cabinet agency
  - DHEC will become a Cabinet agency
- Departments of Mental Health is not Cabinet agencies



# THE SCMA ADVOCACY TEAM

Meet the  
**SCMA**  
**ADVOCACY**  
**TEAM**



**Holly Pisarik**



**Ben Homeyer**



# WHY DOES ADVOCACY MATTER?

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- Last legislative session (2023), 10% of the 1100 bills filed pertained to the practice of medicine in some way
- Wide range of topics – Certificate of Need, Reorganization of DHEC, Scope of Practice Issues, Medical Marijuana, Medical Malpractice, Access to Healthcare, Reimbursement, Telemedicine, Budget
- Legislation impacts access to care for patients, safety of care for patients, reimbursement for care, maintaining independence to practice, incentivizing physicians to practice in SC



# INFLUENCE – WHY DO WE WANT IT AND HOW DO WE BUILD IT

- Attend political fundraisers
- Attend caucus events
- Be a resource on an issue
- Be responsive and attentive
- Build authentic relationships
- Show up on important issues
- Whose job – MINE and YOURS

-IF WE DO THIS WELL, WE WILL BECOME A TRUSTED RESOURCE ON ISSUES WE CARE ABOUT!

- IF WE ARE NOT SENSITIVE TO THE REAL-WORLD DYNAMICS, WE CAN UNDERMINE THIS!



# BUT NOT WITHOUT YOU.....



I might take my time in dealing with a lobbyist,  
***BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE MY FEET PLANTED IN THE CONCRETE IF  
ONE OF MY PHYSICIANS REACHES OUT.***

If you trust someone with your life or your well being, that's a powerful voice. Someone who takes the Hippocratic Oath and commits their life to it, and it manifests and is demonstrated daily in the local community,

***BELIEVE ME ... I'M LISTENING.***

Senator "Danny" Verdin III, Chairman, Senate Medical Affairs Committee



# GETTING INVOLVED

- Engage with SCMA Lobbyist
- Bring Issues to the SCMA Inter-Specialty Council
- Testify before House and Senate Sub-Committees
- Appear in the Lobby of the Statehouse
- Attend Physicians Day at the Statehouse
- Volunteer as Doctor of the Day at Statehouse
- Write Op-Eds
- Use Social Media
- Get to Know Local Legislators and Call Legislators
- Gather Data and Patient Examples
- Share Ideas with SCMA BOT
- Get involved with SCMA leadership



A photograph of a classroom with a green chalkboard. Several students' hands are raised in the air, indicating they want to ask a question or participate. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

QUESTIONS?



# CONTACT INFO

Holly Pisarik – [hollyp@scmedical.org](mailto:hollyp@scmedical.org)

(803) 543-4894