

Practice (DNP) and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D.) degrees add another 1-6 years of education. These educational goals are not just for individuals; the patients receive better care and outcomes with more highly educated nurses. SCNF's mission is to provide scholarships for nurses and to ease the burden of the cost of an education. Now is the time to consider giving to the SCNF. You can donate in various ways. The SCNF social media accounts link back to the main website, where a donate button can be

found. The license plate initiative shows everyone you are a nurse. Midlands Gives offers another method of supporting nurses across the state. Palmetto Gold will begin its nomination process in the months ahead, providing another means to support scholarships. Bequeathments from estates and "Friends of the Foundation" donations help offset the cost of running SCNF. The Board of Trustees for SCNF are all volunteers. We all understand how hard nurses work. SCNF is working hard to help nurses, but this can-

not be done without you! We want to help people pursue their dreams. Remember: SC needs nurses, and SCNF needs donations to give nurses and student nurses more scholarships. Please donate today! ■



## Legislative Update

As we work to foster better work environments for South Carolina nurses and to ensure superior care for patients, the South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) has been actively engaged in advocating for several key pieces of legislation during the 2024 legislative session. Each bill reflects SCNA's commitment to advancing the profession and promoting the well-being of both healthcare providers and the communities they serve. Below is a brief synopsis of each bill. Please note that due to publication deadlines, some of these bills may have been moved to different parts of the legislative process. SCNA will provide a complete update on all 2024 legislation in the July e-issue of the SC Nurse.

**HB 3486 - South Carolina Compassionate Care Act:** The South Carolina Compassionate Care Act seeks to legalize the medical use of cannabis for qualifying patients with debilitating medical conditions. SCNA recognizes the potential benefits of medical cannabis in alleviating symptoms and improving the quality of life for patients. By supporting this bill, SCNA aims to ensure that nurses have access to alternative treatment options for their patients, thereby enhancing compassionate care delivery across the state. We believe this could help patients manage their symptoms better and improve their quality of life. This bill has passed in the Senate and effectively met the crossover deadline on April 11, 2024. It currently sits in the House, awaiting debate. SCNA participated

in a press conference in support of this bill and testified during a House Sub-Committee Hearing on April 23, 2304.

**SB853 - Laser Hair Removal:** SB853: The Laser Hair Removal Act addresses regulations and licensure requirements for laser hair removal services in South Carolina. SCNA aims to establish clear guidelines for nurses and nurse practitioners offering laser hair removal services, safeguarding both patients and clinicians from potential risks and ensuring optimal outcomes. It appears this bill will pass favorably. SCNA worked with the SCMA, Board of Nursing, and Medical Laser companies extensively to ensure the language in the bill was acceptable to all parties. This bill is currently in the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

**SJR855 - Healthcare Study Committee Joint Resolution:** The Healthcare Study Committee Joint Resolution, SJR855, proposes the formation of a study committee to examine various healthcare-related issues in South Carolina. South Carolina is one of the few states that has not expanded Medicaid. SCNA has joined Cover SC, which seeks to strengthen the health and economy of our state through affordable, sustainable healthcare coverage. This bill went into proviso and is awaiting passage of the Senate budget.

**HB 4159 - Telehealth and Telemedicine Modernization Act:** HB 4159 focuses on modernizing telehealth and telemedicine

practices in South Carolina. SCNA recognizes the transformative potential of telehealth in expanding access to healthcare services, particularly in underserved and rural areas of the state. This bill was signed into law in March 2023.

**SB1074 - Certified Medical Assistant (CMA):** SB1074 pertains to the certification and scope of practice for Certified Medical Assistants (CMAs) in South Carolina. By advocating for this bill, SCNA aimed to ensure that CMAs are equipped with the necessary training, resources, and recognition to effectively support nursing teams and deliver high-quality patient care. This bill has passed and is awaiting signature from the governor.

SCNA remains committed to advocating for legislation that advances nursing practice, promotes patient-centered care, and improves healthcare outcomes across the state. Our active engagement in the legislative process continues to be a driving force for positive change in the healthcare landscape, advocating tirelessly on behalf of nurses and the communities they serve.

Are you interested in working with our legislative team? If so, find out more at <https://www.scnurses.org/page/SCNAPublicPolicyPlatform>. ■