



Date: Friday, February 13, 2026

Open Letter to South Carolina State Legislators

Disability Advocacy Day – March 4, 2026

Dear Members of the South Carolina General Assembly,

Across South Carolina, people with disabilities and their families are navigating systems that are increasingly difficult to access, understand, and survive within. Too often, the realities of disability policy remain disconnected from the daily experiences of the people most affected by them.

On **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**, hundreds of South Carolinians with disabilities, family members, advocates, and service providers will gather at the State House for **Disability Advocacy Day (DAD)**. They will come not to protest, but to share lived experience and engage directly with policymakers.

When lived experience is absent from policy conversations, even well-intended decisions can cause real harm. That gap between policy and reality continues to affect thousands of South Carolinians.

People with disabilities across our state are facing:

- Long waiting lists for essential services
- Severe workforce shortages impacting care and safety
- Limited access to affordable, accessible housing
- Outdated eligibility rules that penalize saving or working
- Gaps in healthcare, mental health, and crisis services
- Families aging into caregiving roles without sustainable plans

These challenges are not abstract. They determine whether people can live safely, remain employed, access care, and participate fully in their communities.

Disability Advocacy Day exists to close the gap between policy and lived experience.

On March 4, you will have the opportunity to hear directly from your constituents about what is working, what is broken, and what urgently needs attention. You will also have the opportunity to share what actions you are taking, or plan to take, to address these issues.

We invite you to join us at the State House to walk the grounds, visit advocacy tables, listen to personal stories, and engage in honest, constructive conversation.

Additional information about Disability Advocacy Day and participating organizations is available at www.scpdo.org.

This is not about criticism. It is about collective responsibility, collaboration, and meaningful solutions.

South Carolinians with disabilities deserve policies that make a real difference in their daily lives, not just in statute. We hope you will join us at the State House on March 4.

Respectfully,

South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations (SCPDO)

In partnership with self-advocates, families, and disability organizations across South Carolina