

What is Disability Advocacy Day?

The South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations (SCPDO) is a coalition of organizations whose aim is to assure self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with severe lifelong disabilities in all aspects of society. Collectively, we advocate for more than 500,000 people with severe, lifelong disabilities in South Carolina.

Disability Advocacy Day is a grassroots effort organized by advocacy organizations all across the state to educate our governor and legislators about the lives, challenges and needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.

We invite the public, lawmakers, and community partners to attend the 35th Annual Disability Advocacy Day celebration on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 to bring about a call to action to remove barriers to success and preserve services and supports for people with disabilities. We will gather on the North grounds of the South Carolina State House. Events include a walk, a rally, and speeches by community partners, self-advocates, and others.

Every individual in the disability community has a unique story to tell whether a parent, sibling, professional, extended family member or supporter. Stories are a powerful advocacy tool. In many cases, storytelling is necessary to help give lawmakers an accurate picture of the reality of people's lives. It allows them to truly understand the challenges that families face so they can see how their decisions have a direct impact on their lives. When you share your story with your representatives, it helps them remember that when policy decisions are being made about people who have disabilities, it's affecting the lives of real people. By helping your legislator see what life looks like where you stand, you can help improve the conditions for everyone who has a disability, their families, and caregivers. Your story cannot be wrong; it is your own, personal experience, and your experience has value and meaning.

If you would like to know more about Disability Advocacy Day and how you can get involved, please email us at scpdoinfo@gmail.com.