

What is H.3211?

H.3211 is a common sense legislative proposal aimed at unlocking South Carolina's untapped potential by removing barriers to professional licensure for individuals protected under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

This bill will allow DREAMers—young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children—to apply their education and skills in licensed professions, filling critical workforce gaps in healthcare, education, and skilled trades.



Those affected are authorized to work, pay taxes, & contribute to society.



However, these same individuals are not authorized for 40+ vocations which require licensing.

"A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 40-1-35, providing that individuals with current and valid employment authorizations approved by federal immigration authorities are eligible for occupational or professional licensure, provided all other applicable requirements are met."



Download the Full Report!



Why this matters for SC

The Palmetto State is experiencing a workforce shortage in critical industries.

43

available workers for every 100 jobs



11,860

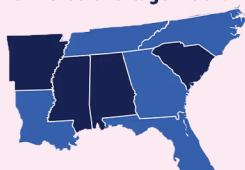
more nurses needed by 2037



1.7%

SC population growth in 2024

Workforce Shortage Index:



As of 2021,

41 of 46

counties in SC were experiencing a shortage of primary care providers



1,800

job openings for carpentry & plumbing per year

More Severe

Most Severe



The Economic Opportunity

\$67.7M

in additional annual economic output

\$1.9M

additional sales & income tax revenue

947

workers could fill higher-paying jobs



H.3211 is a solution.



Allied4SC.org

The Licensing Bill ensures that South Carolina can retain talent, foster innovation, & build stronger communities.



Top Licensed Professions in SC

- Nursing (RNs & LPNs)
- Physicians & Surgeons
- Construction
- HVAC Technicians
- Teachers
- Mental Health Professionals
- Dentists
- Electric & Plumbing
- Physical & Occupational Therapists
- Accountants
- Pharmacists



The Economic Power of Immigrants in the US

\$2.2 trillion

annual contribution to the US economy

\$570 billion

taxes paid in 2022 alone

1 in 5

US entrepreneurs are immigrants

\$194 billion

contributed to Social Security & Medicare



17% of South Carolina's workforce is currently employed in a licensed field.

5,500+ individuals with federal approval to work are barred from obtaining professional licenses.

Take Action.

Explore our Advocacy Toolkit.
Contact Your Legislators.



"A student could be valedictorian of their high school class, but the law says you cannot obtain a professional or occupational license in more than 40 different fields.

To me, that does not make good fiscal sense. We want these young people to be employed to their full potential and be productive members of society."

Scott Cochran
President, Spartanburg Methodist College

