

Expanding Healthcare Access in South Carolina

A New Year's Resolution for 2025

Due to high patient volume across the nation and in South Carolina, doctors are often booked weeks or months in advance. Many are experiencing burnout and are unable to give patients the attention they may need.

The Cicero Institute suggests a New Year's Resolution for South Carolina in 2025 to increase access to healthcare by creating a pathway for international physicians to practice in the state.

BY 2023

The U.S. is projected to have **120,000 too few** doctors nationally.



- ▶ **Nearly 40% of American physicians** will reach retirement age.

South Carolina is projected to be **short 3,230 doctors**.



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 815 providers**.

Overall, South Carolina **ranks in the bottom half** of states for primary care doctor and general surgeon availability.

36th

in total physician supply

38th

in primary physicians

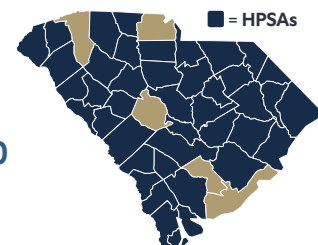
38th

in general surgeons

41 of South Carolina's 46 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).

- ▶ **Low-income citizens** are disproportionately affected by these shortages.

- ▶ HPSA designations indicate areas where there are **3,500 or more patients for every one provider**.



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This dire situation leaves many patients with a difficult choice:



Forego care altogether

—OR—



Choose higher-cost alternatives such as urgent care or the emergency room

While pharmacists have the extensive education and experience to help fill this gap, legislative and regulatory restrictions prevent them from doing so.

The U.S. healthcare system is sidelining 330,000 pharmacists who are qualified to provide many medical services such as:



Diagnosis and management of chronic diseases and minor ailments

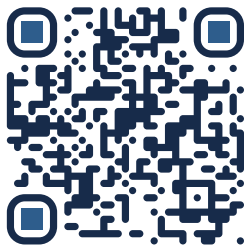


Test and treat based on the results of laboratory tests



Delivery of preventative health services

Giving pharmacists the ability to deploy the full scope of their training and experience—especially in rural areas and healthcare deserts—would mean safe and effective way to alleviate the pressure of doctor shortages in South Carolina.



For more information on this solution and how to implement it in South Carolina, contact:

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