

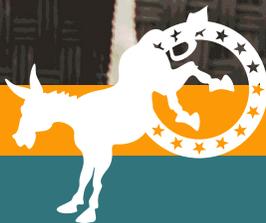
**A NEW SOUTH CAROLINA**  
NEW SOLUTIONS FOR OLD CHALLENGES



**COMPACT**

**FOR SOUTH CAROLINA**

SOUTH CAROLINA



HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

## South Carolina House Democratic Caucus 2017-18 Compact for South Carolina

*SCHDC's 2017-18 Compact for South Carolina is a comprehensive plan to address South Carolina's major issues and challenges, with the primary goal of taking actions that will move South Carolina forward together. The 2017-18 two-year session will be defined by the actions the State will take in order to address a number of critical issues for South Carolinians. The next two years provide an opportunity for state leaders to introduce new measures that could benefit South Carolina's citizens for decades to come.*



Our Compact for South Carolina takes direct actions that will...

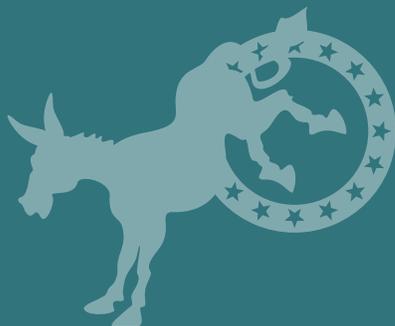
- focus on the true needs and challenges facing South Carolina;
- ensure the federal government works in the best interest of South Carolinians and not any individual or political party; and
- re-establish the relationship and trust between voters and elected officials, to ensure elected leaders are justly representing the needs of those they serve.

### Highlights

- Establish an adequate and stable source of funds to repair State roads and bridges
- Reform the State's public education funding system
- Establish a minimum Livable Wage standard
- Establish an Employee Non-Discrimination standard
- Increase and sustain teacher pay at or above the Southeastern average
- Focus on making higher education affordable for State residents
- Expand and modernize the State's Tourism Industry and potential impact
- Expand and modernize the State's Agriculture Industry and potential impact
- Expand alternative energy options and protect our vital natural resources
- Reform and modernize the State Tax Code so that it is fair to all individuals and businesses, regardless of their location within the state
- Reduce the size of State government and focus spending on the real priorities of the State

## Drastically increase job creation and economic development

*South Carolina working class, middle class, and small businesses have been neglected over the past 10-15 years. Republican leaders have failed to take meaningful and out-of-the-box thinking to solve the jobs problem we have in South Carolina. House Democrats believe now is the time to focus on South Carolina workers and small businesses first.*

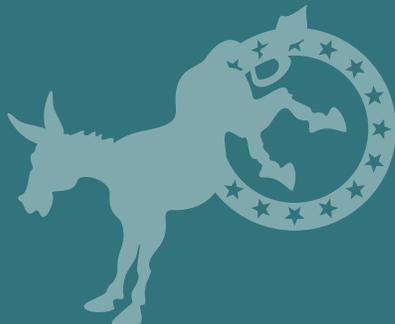


The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which ...

- brings high quality jobs to all areas of the state (a special focus on rural and disadvantaged areas)
- secures and/or creates a stable funding source needed to improve, repair, and construct both main and secondary highways, roads, and bridges
- comprehensively reforms and modernizes the state's tax code
- provides workforce development and continuing education options
- expands broadband access to all communities of the State (focusing on rural and disadvantaged areas)
- expands and modernizes the State's Tourism Industry
- expands and modernizes the State's Agriculture Industry

## Improve all public education options (K-12 and higher ed)

*House Democrats have firmly stood by the idea that there is a direct link between job creation and public schools (Pre-K, K-12 and Higher Education). Over the past 20 years Republican leadership has repeatedly failed to implement the reform necessary to ensure that all South Carolina students receive the fair and equitable education that will be the foundation for South Carolina's posterity.*

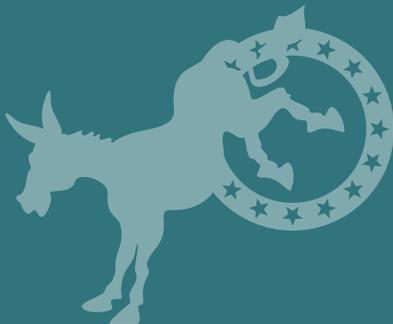


The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which ...

- provides access to pre-k programs for all eligible students
- reforms the system for funding K-12 public education
- works to ensure public educators have quality professional development opportunities and are at least paid at the South-eastern average
- adopts a state standard for School Safety
- modernizes the State's School Bus System
- adequately funds and supports State colleges and universities to reduce cost of tuition for state students
- studies possible modernization options for State Lottery funds

## Improve healthcare options (convenience and cost)

*South Carolina's healthcare challenges remain one of the top issues impacting thousands of individuals and families across the State. These challenges, include lack of providing available coverage for thousands of citizens, convenience and accessibility in rural communities, and high cost for coverage faced by many South Carolinians daily.*



The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which ...

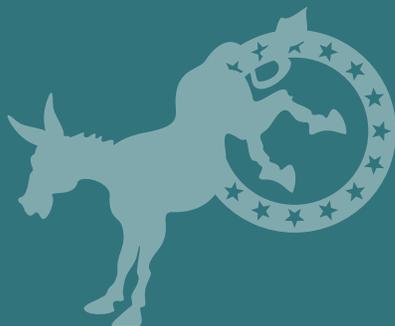
- expands access to healthcare options for rural and disadvantaged areas
- improves the response and efficiency of DHEC, DJJ, and other state agencies
- provides support, focused on mental and behavioral health
- improves care of senior citizens

## Strengthen families and communities

*House Democrats believe strong families build a healthy future for the State. State leaders must take an active role in supporting the family structure, with the understanding that, in the world in which we live today, there are different types of balanced, secured family structures.*

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which ...

- aggressively tackles cases of domestic violence and abuse
- protects our senior citizens
- expands broadband access to all communities of the State (focusing on rural and disadvantaged areas)
- supports families recover from natural disasters including: hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, etc.
- provides proper training and support for law enforcement agencies
- protects the public from possible terrorist threats and plots (domestic and international)

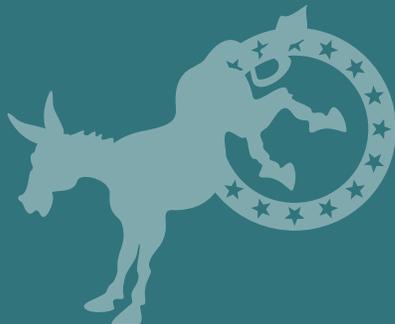


## Make government more effective and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy

*House Democrats believe that over the past twenty years under Republican leadership we have failed to reduce government, and make it work more efficiently and effectively for South Carolinians.*

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which ...

- eliminate any overbearing regulations at the state and local level that prevent job growth and economic development
- redirect state funding to our most critical priorities



## Protecting our environment and natural resources

*We all are fortunate to live in a state with an abundance of natural beauty and resources. It is important that lawmakers take actions that protect our natural resources and environmental infrastructure.*

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which ...

- protects air and water quality and infrastructure
- supports clean energy options and alternatives
- supports and promotes state-wide recycling and energy efficiency initiatives
- protects family-owned farms, privately owned properties, public parks, historic sites, and recreational parks

