



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# **MAKING COMMUNITIES STRONGER**

## **Legislative Priorities 2015–2016**

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### **About the SC Alliance of YMCAs**

The SC Alliance of YMCAs represents the interest and concerns of 21 independent YMCA Associations throughout the Palmetto State. We are a grassroots driven and governed organization that advocates and educates on behalf of the YMCA and its mission to promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. As the 50 YMCA branches are each a powerful advocate for the needs of the children, families and individuals in communities throughout the state, The South Carolina Alliance of YMCAs works to foster statewide communication and cooperation among Ys thus increasing the reach and impact of the YMCA.

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### **Youth Development**

We believe that all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. That's why, through the Y, thousands of youth today are cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational achievement. SC Ys are one of the largest providers of childcare / Out-of-School Time programs in the state. We advocate for legislation that increases access, affordability and quality of youth programs and services to help every child in SC reach their full potential.

1. **Healthy Out of School Time**— We support legislation that would provide for the establishment of a Healthy Out of School Time Recognition Program, which would provide an incentive to after school programs who fully implement the requirements for including staff training on healthy eating and physical activity, providing healthy food and drinks to participants, and providing participants with physical activity and limited screen time.
2. **After School and Summer Camp Regulations**—We are committed to ensuring that all children are provided with access to safe, quality and affordable programs when they are not in school. We are closely monitoring H.3767.



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## Healthy Living

In communities throughout South Carolina, the Y is a leading voice on health and well-being. The Y is a place that brings families closer together, encourages good health and fosters connections through fitness, sports, healthy eating, fun and shared interests. As a result, 226,000 children, adults and families are receiving the support, guidance and resources needed to achieve greater health and well-being for their spirit, mind and body. We advocate for legislation to support evidence-based strategies to reduce rates of chronic diseases—the nation’s leading causes of death and major drivers of health care costs—including obesity, diabetes and health disease.

1. **CPR in Schools**—We support Senate Bill 320 and House Bill 3265 to provide for at least one time during grades 9-12, each student shall receive hands on instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
2. **Healthy Food in School**—we support S. 484 that would ensure schools are meeting nutritional standards set by the USDA and that the standards are regularly updated with the USDA guidelines. The bill would help the community understand how schools are meeting nutrition standards by reporting compliance in existing school health improvement plans and allow flexibility for schools to exceed the standards. The bill ensures all students throughout the state have equal access to healthy foods and help prevent and address disparities.

## Social Responsibility

The Y has been listening and responding to our communities’ most critical social needs for nearly 160 years. Whether developing skills through education and training, welcoming and connective diverse demographic populations through community service, or preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities, the Y fosters the care and respect all people need and deserve. The YMCA volunteers, donors, leaders and partners throughout the state are empowering South Carolinians to be healthy, confident, connected and secure. We advocate for preserving the charitable contribution tax deduction. Charities should not be hindered in efforts to raise private dollars to meet community needs.

1. **Child Protection**—The YMCA has pledged to do everything in its power to protect the children and teens from those who would do them harm and is committed to the safety and well-being of our children by establishing statewide practices and policies to keep children safe including establishing a child abuse prevention committee, self assessment and implementing 8 best practices to prevent child abuse.

For More information, please contact

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