The Honorable Jeffrey A. Bradley, Chairman

K-12 Education Subcommittee of the South Carolina House of Representatives

P.O. Box 11867

Columbia, SC 29211-01867

February 21, 2023

*Re: Bill H 3308 (Session 125) as considered in subcommittee on February 21, 2023*

Dear Representative Bradley and Committee Members:

On behalf of the statewide membership of The South Carolina Education Association (“The SCEA”) we wish to convey our support for South Carolina House Bill 3308 as filed in 125th Session of the General Assembly.

Our support for the bill is drawn based upon the following factors:

1. The SCEA has long advocated for more certified school psychologists, social workers, and school guidance counselors to be employed within our schools. This bill with help will with recruitment efforts among the pool of out of state candidates.
2. H. 3308, as currently drafted, provides adequate flexibility to the board for consideration when a candidate not currently meeting the state’s minimum requirements for certification are being courted by a district for employment in the state.

Overall, we believe H. 3308 aligns with our 2023-2024 legislative agenda in that it not only incentivizes careers in hard to staff regions of the state, but also will help to improve recruitment and retention programs overall. As such, we encourage you to support H. 3308 and report the bill out as favorable to the full committee.

Please contact my office for additional assistance should questions or the need for additional clarification exist.

With kind regards,

Sherry East, President