

STATE SENATOR JOEL LOURIE - Last update 1.2020

Senator Lourie was elected to the State Senate in 2004 and retired in 2016, representing Richland and Kershaw counties in Senate District #22. Prior to his service in the State Senate, he was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, representing District #78, from 1999 to 2004. He is a native of Columbia, South Carolina and married to Becky Baum Lourie from Camden. Joel is a graduate of Richland Northeast High School and the University of South Carolina. He is President & CEO of Lourie Life & Health, a regional insurance brokerage firm.

Joel is the son of Susan and the late Senator Isadore Lourie, whose footsteps he has followed into public service. He currently serves on the boards of the Prisma Health Foundation, WREN (Women's Rights and Empowerment Network), and the Anti-Defamation League

Legislative Accomplishments and Awards:

2018 Reverend Senator Clementa Pinckney Award for Justice, Appleseed Legal Justice

2016 Legislative Champion Award, SC Coalition for Healthy Families

2015 National Legislative Champion, Autism Speaks

2015 Green Tie Award – SC Conservation Voters Legislator of the Year

2015 Child Advocate Award – SC Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

2015 Hyman Rubin Sr. Distinguished Service Award from the Community Relations Council of Columbia.

2015 Advocate for Children from **Institute for Child Success** for his outstanding commitment to South Carolina's youngest children.

2014 & 2015 Legislator of the Year from **MADD** for his tireless efforts in helping to support and advance the mission of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and his work to pass Emma's Law.

2013 Legislator of the Year from **South Carolina Human Service Providers** for his longstanding career of supporting the disabilities community.

2012 Star Legislator from **Autism Academy of South Carolina** for his continued leadership in the General Assembly and support of children with Autism.

2011 Advocate for Children from **Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates** for his dedication to the protection of the rights and welfare of abused and neglected children in South Carolina.

2011 Legislator of the Year from the **South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association** for his outstanding contributions, leadership and dedication to the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association.

2011 Recognition Award from the **March of Dimes** for his commitment to access to health care coverage for pregnant women and children in South Carolina.

2010 Commitment Award from the **National Safety Council Alive at 25 Program** for his assistance and support in expanding the Alive at 25 program to high schools throughout South Carolina.

2009 Champion of Health Care Award from the **South Carolina Medical Association** for his continued leadership and service to the field of medicine and support of quality health care for all South Carolinians.

2008 Advocate of the Year Award from the **South Carolina Alive At 25 Program** for his ongoing support in teen driver safety and leading the passage of the seatbelt and DUI reform laws.

2008 AARP recognition as one of fifty South Carolinians who have made a difference in the lives of seniors (in conjunction with the 50th birthday of AARP).

2008-2010 Liberty Fellowship Program

2007 Legislator of the Year Award from the **Behavioral Health Services Association of South Carolina**. This award is for recognition of outstanding leadership and service in ensuring a healthy South Carolina through the prevention and reduction of underage substance use and addictions.

Star of Justice Award 2007 from the Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Incorporated for his role in passing legislation that created a new unit of SLED that investigates crimes against vulnerable adults.

2007 Legislative Award from the **South Carolina Association of Prevention Professionals & Advocates** for his sponsorship of **The Prevention of Underage Drinking and Access to Alcohol Act**. **This legislation is** a multi-faceted approach to deal with the problem of underage drinking and repeat DUI offenders. Also recognized by the **South Carolina State Child Fatality Advisory Committee** for this endeavor.

Family Hero Recognition 2006-2007 by the **Palmetto Family Council** for his leadership in passing the state tax credit for premarital counseling.

Seat Belt Championship Award of 2006 for his advocacy of seat belt and child safety seat usage. Co-sponsor of mandatory seat belt bill.

Humane Society of the United States 2006 Humane State Legislator Award for his leadership in the passage of legislation strengthening animal fighting laws in South Carolina.

Youth Prevention Champion Award 2005-2006 by the **South Carolina Association of Prevention Professionals & Advocates** for his sponsorship of the **Youth Access to Tobacco Prevention Act** that prohibits possession of tobacco by minors and strengthens penalties for those who sell tobacco to minors.

SC Commission on National and Community Service 2005 Legislator of the Year Award for his involvement in community service learning and his record of sponsoring and supporting legislation improving the lives of all South Carolinians.

SC Public Health Association 2005 Legislator of the Year Award for his efforts to pass Seat Belt legislation, Boiler Safety Legislation and steadfast support for improving healthcare in South Carolina.

2004 Legislative Award from the **SC Counseling Association** for continued support of the counseling profession.

2004 Advocate Award from the **SC School Improvement Council** for tireless effort in improving South Carolina public schools.

2002 Advocate Award from the **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)**, Midlands Chapter for continued support on mental health issues and steadfast support for the Columbia Area Mental Health Center.

Advocate of legislation to prohibit gun possession by individuals convicted of certain domestic violence offenses and those subject to restraining or protection orders. (Received the **Outstanding Legislative Support Award** from **SC Victims Assistance Network** in 2004, the **Legislator of the Year Award** from **National Association of Social Workers, S.C. Chapter** in 2003 for this effort and his ongoing legislative support).

House Leader on the **Governor's Nuclear Waste Task Force** and helped write legislation that barred other states from dumping their nuclear waste in South Carolina.

Alliance for SC's Child Advocacy Leadership Award in 2001 for leadership on legislation requiring seatbelts for minors.

Primary sponsor of the bill which now requires criminal background checks for all employees of nursing homes and home healthcare agencies (**Received Senior Advocacy Award from Senior Resources in 2000**).

Helped create the **Newborn Hearing Screening Program**. Received the **South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Legislator of the Year Award** in 2000.

Led the initiative that lowered the cost for nonprofit organizations to do criminal background checks on volunteers and employees. (**Received the Distinguished Service Award from the South Carolina Association of Non-Profit Organizations** in 2000)

Primary sponsor of the **Credit Counseling Bill** that regulates the credit counseling industry within the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs.

Primary sponsor of the **Boiler Safety Act**, which provides guidelines for the inspection and maintenance of commercial boilers.

Primary sponsor of the **Statewide Birth Defects Surveillance System** within the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Primary sponsor of the **Prescription Privacy Act** that prohibits the sale of personal prescription information.

Primary sponsor and floor leader of **Emma's Law** which requires ignition interlock machine usage for all repeat DUI offenders.

Led the effort to pass **Jacob's Law** that eliminated the loophole allowing schools and day care centers to transport children in 15 passenger vans.

Co-sponsor and strong advocate for **Ryan's Law** (passed 2007) which requires insurance companies to provide coverage for children with Autism.