

The Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AZANA) Board of Directors has major concerns regarding the economic strain that the Healthcare Rising Initiative could place on local hospital systems. At the present time, many hospitals are continuing to be negatively impacted by the financial hardship caused by COVID-19. Even prior to the pandemic, many rural healthcare facilities have continued to struggle to keep their doors open in today's healthcare climate. An initiative such as this could result in facilities not being able to withstand the financial implications and potentially result in closure. Overall, ensuring adequate access to care for all Arizonans continues to be one of our association's top priorities. While we strongly support competitive and robust wages for direct-care workers, it must be done in a reasonable way so as to not hurt service options for patients. Therefore, the AZANA opposes this initiative due to the potential negative ramifications that could result from its implementation.

**Lee Ranalli, President, Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Chandler**

Vote NO on Prop XXX- The Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act

The Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act would have been risky in the best of times. Today we are facing a global pandemic. At a time when the state's hospitals are providing outstanding patient care despite many obstacles and challenges, this initiative is nothing short of reckless. With so many rural and smaller hospitals already struggling to stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative would add to their financial burdens.

While Prop XXX's claim is to "stop surprise billing", surprise billing has been illegal in Arizona since 2019. In reality, Prop XXX will weaken the state's healthcare safety net and undermine important consumer options that already ensure that no one can be denied insurance coverage on the basis of a pre-existing condition. This initiative will harm the most vulnerable in our state.

The Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act is risky and reckless. In the best case, it threatens the care for the most vulnerable communities in the state. In the worst case, it could cause additional hospitals and care centers to shutter – leaving the most vulnerable communities with NO emergency and hospital care options. Vote NO on Prop XXX

**Naomi Lopez, Director of Healthcare Policy, Goldwater Institute, Phoenix**

The Arizona Medical Association, and the nearly 4,000 physicians we represent, opposes Proposition XXX. It would be devastating to hospitals, physicians, and the patients we care for in Arizona.

We agree that more needs to be done to address current challenges in healthcare, however, this is not the right strategy or approach.

This ballot initiative is unnecessary and irrelevant:

- Arizona already has protections in place to ensure that you do not receive surprise bills after getting care.

- No one can be denied health coverage under federal or state law.

Additionally, over the last several months, Arizona's health care system, doctors, and patients have been put under tremendous strain by the COVID-19 pandemic. We took an oath to care for our patients, and that will always be our top priority, even in difficult times like these. The worst response to such a difficult year would be to add significant, difficult, and expensive new regulations to hospitals and health care facilities that are already struggling.

The ballot box is the wrong place to make healthcare policy. That is why physicians and hospitals are united in opposition to this measure. Decisions about ways to improve the health care system should be collaborative, data-driven, and made at the end of a robust stakeholder process. This initiative is not that.

As physicians, nothing is more important to us than the patients we serve. On behalf of ourselves and our patients, please vote no.

**Ross Goldberg, MD, President, Arizona Medical Association, Phoenix**

Dear Voters:

Proposition XXX does not protect Arizona's healthcare system, it puts the entire system in jeopardy, which hurts all Arizonans but especially those who are struggling during these challenging times. Proposition XXX will reduce access to healthcare at a critical time.

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has always been one of the best Medicaid programs in the country. It aligns the mission of government with the efficient expertise of the private sector to provide high-quality, low-cost medical care to almost two million Arizonans. Hospitals across Arizona work hard to give our members the best medical care at an affordable cost.

In every part of the State, we serve women and children, seniors, people with disabilities, and others who rely on AHCCCS for essential care. We help prevent disease, treat chronic ailments, and improve mental health. We can only do that if we have a program we can afford.

Our hospitals are key partners in driving innovative, patient-centered, cost-effective practices. We need them, now more than ever, to be viable, thriving parts of our system of care. Unfortunately, Proposition XXX would destabilize our hospital partners at a time where these same institutions have been rocked by the fallout of COVID-19.

Hospitals serve as the backbone of Arizona's communities.

- Proposition XXX will erode our ability to support Arizona communities.
- Proposition XXX will hurt our ability to keep costs low for patients – and taxpayers.

- Proposition XXX will ratchet up the costs of Medicaid, making healthcare unaffordable for Arizonans in a time when we need it most.

Proposition XXX offers flawed, one-size-fits-all mandates that bring problems – not solutions. Please help us protect the healthcare safety net for Arizonans who need it most. Vote “NO” on Proposition XXX it is too dangerous for Arizona.

**Deb Gullett, Executive Director, Arizona Association of Health Plans, Phoenix**

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry urges you to vote NO on Proposition XXX.

Out-of-state special interests are attempting to make health care in Arizona more expensive and put our hospitals at tremendous risk, especially those in rural areas. During this deadly global pandemic, our health care heroes are already suffering; Proposition XXX only makes things worse.

Don't be fooled. Many of the policies proposed by the initiative have long since been addressed by existing law. But the new mandates proposed by this initiative will leave Arizona hospitals with only bad options: pass the higher costs on to patients; reduce care; or close their doors.

Dramatically increasing health care costs at a time when the Arizona economy is struggling with a double-digit unemployment rate and record jobless claims will devastate hardworking families and delay the state's economic recovery.

The health care industry provides lifesaving care to our communities and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. Health care is also a major economic driver in Arizona. But Proposition XXX is poised to harm Arizona's health care landscape, resulting in fewer choices, reduced contributions to state revenues, and a diminished quality of life. It will have devastating effects that will ripple across the entire economy.

We Arizonans should come together to develop our own health care solutions and policies, not out-of-state special interests who want to use our ballot initiative process to pass their radical agenda.

Proposition XXX is far outside the mainstream and it hurts Arizona. We urge Arizonans to reject it and vote NO.

**Glenn Hamer, President & CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Scottsdale**  
*Sponsored by Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

Wickenburg Community Hospital (WCH) believes the initiative is unnecessary and is designed to misrepresent the facts to the public.

- The Consumer Protections stated in the initiative are already in place. The ACA protects health insurance coverage from discrimination due to pre-existing conditions. In June, Governor Ducey signed into law S.B. 1397; “Insurance; preexisting condition exclusions; prohibition”. Insurance coverage cannot be denied for pre-existing conditions. Coverage is available through marketplace plans, AHCCCS, Medicare, employers, and short-term plans.
- Insurance companies cannot charge higher rates because of health, gender, or other factors. Higher premiums are allowed based on age (but limited to no more than three times the amount charged for young people), geography, family size and tobacco use.
- A.R.S. 20-3111 through 20-3119 (Out-of-Network Surprise Billing Laws) became effective on January 1, 2019. Such laws impose new requirements for patient disclosure to prevent unexpected out-of-network bills, and, if necessary, mandated dispute resolution through the Department of Insurance.
- The Act applies surprise out-of-network balance billing prohibitions to emergency services received at OON facilities and to transportation by OON ground ambulance providers. The cost-sharing amount that a healthcare provider may charge an enrollee may not exceed in-network cost-sharing amounts.
- WCH tracks HAIs and reports this data to Quality and the WCH Board and began reporting to NHSN in January.
- Fines are unnecessary, as a public report of non-compliance would be consequence enough for any hospital.
- The proposed wage increases would be financially devastating to rural hospitals. For WCH the impact over the 4-year requirement totals nearly four million dollars. Contractors would pass along any increase to their costs to the organization.
- WCH has a compensation program as part of an effective employee engagement/retention program. This program has contributed to WCH having an extremely low turnover

**James Tavary, Chief Executive Officer, Wickenburg Community Hospital & Clinics, Wickenburg**

The Greater Phoenix Chamber firmly opposes the “Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act”. This proposition, once again brought forward by an out-of-state group, arbitrarily mandates pay increases for some health care workers while adding additional administrative burdens to the most fragile hospitals in Arizona.

The United States and Arizona were founded on free-market, common sense principles. This unnecessary measure grants government interference into free market practices. To randomly mandate wage increases for one sector of the economy would lead to a patchwork of employment laws and would be devastating to small and rural hospitals fighting to save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The additional burdens this initiative would place on these same small hospitals would stretch their resources even thinner. As a result, some of these institutions may be faced with going bankrupt and/or closing, leaving thousands of patients without a local hospital option and risking the lives of Arizonans.

This proposal will drive up health care costs for all Arizonans. Hospitals will be unable to absorb such sharp expense increases, and those increased costs will ultimately be passed on to patients through increased bills and insurance costs. As businesses and workers are recovering from the economic downturn resulting from COVID-19, putting additional roadblocks in place for receiving health care is not the direction we should be pursuing.

Arizona's health care systems, which employ thousands of workers, are economic drivers for our state. Putting those systems at risk while recovering from the pandemic would be the most damaging option for Arizona. Our health care heroes deserved to be recognized and applauded. This proposed measure stands only put jobs and lives on the line and should be dismissed in favor of a proposal that works for everyone.

We urge you to join us in voting NO.

**Todd Sanders, President & CEO, Greater Phoenix Chamber, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Greater Phoenix Chamber*

On behalf of patients and residents, we the CEOs Cochise County's four hospitals ask voters reject the "Stop Surprise Billing & Protect Patients Act" (I-24-2020). This misguided proposal would have a devastating economic impact in Cochise County and would negatively impact all health care providers – hospitals, physician practices, outpatient centers, etc.

Cochise County, an area that is nearly the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined, has only four hospitals to serve its nearly 126,000 residents. These hospitals are both Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), which means there are only 25 beds or fewer available for patients or designated as a Sole Community Hospital. These hospitals serve some of the most rural and vulnerable communities in our state.

Ninety-eight percent of our county is under-served because there are too few doctors to provide care to nearly 126,000 residents. Like many other communities across the nation, Cochise County faces nursing and provider shortages. The demand currently outweighs the supply. These challenges have only grown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We often operate on a tight budget and believe we have a process in place to determine and provide equitable pay based upon the market dynamics. This proposal calls for a 5 percent annual pay increase for health care professionals for four years. This is a 20 percent pay increase during that time. The proposed increase in this measure is not economically feasible. This bill will drive up the costs of healthcare for citizens in county and state. It's not an understatement to say that this proposed bill will negatively impact all providers, patients, and residents. Leading to fewer services and possibly even more rural hospital closures in our state. Our residents cannot afford this type of disruption as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage our communities, county, and state.

**Julia Strange, CEO, Benson Hospital, Benson; Rob Seamon, CEO, Copper Queen Community Hospital, Bisbee; Bob Gomes, CEO, Canyon Vista Medical Center, Sierra Vista; and Mo Sheldon, CEO, Northern Cochise Community Hospital, Willcox**  
*Sponsored by Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association*

As the top executive for the only hospital in Yuma County, Ariz., I want to voice my strong opposition to the “Stop Surprise Billing & Protect Patients Act” (I-24-2020). This proposal is unnecessary because many of the measures included are already addressed by state and federal law. If passed, the proposal would cause great harm to patients in Yuma County and force us to reduce the services we provide to our residents.

Yuma County is geographically isolated from more populated areas of our state. The federal government has acknowledged that 100 percent of our residents are under-served when it comes to health care. If a patient needs treatment we do not provide or wants to seek another opinion, he or she must drive hours to the next available hospital.

We have a top-notch nursing and physician staff, but we struggle to attract these professionals to Yuma County because of the appeal of larger markets like Phoenix. We must pay more to attract the best talent to Yuma County, so this means our budget is already stretched thin.

In addition, Yuma County has been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis, with our county ranking third in the state for COVID-19-positive cases. We have put a great deal of resources into treating the more than 3,200 residents who have tested positive for this deadly virus. We have also fully complied with all state restrictions and CDC guidelines related to elective surgeries and other types of routine care. We are losing millions of dollars as a result of COVID-19, and we simply cannot afford the major hit like the one proposed in this bill.

For these reasons, we ask Arizona legislators and voters to reject this bill. Our patients and residents cannot afford this measure. It will devastate our county and our hospital.

**Robert Trenchel, CEO, Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma**  
*Sponsored by Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association*

Southern Arizona Leadership Council supports legislation, policies and initiatives that sustain and increase the quality and affordability of healthcare for individuals and employers; however, SALC cannot support Proposition XXX.

SALC staunchly advocated for the expansion of Medicaid which resulted in coverage for tens of thousands more Arizonans. And SALC helped develop a fast-track plan that produced 150 new registered nurses for Southern Arizona during a severe nursing shortage.

But SALC is opposed to the Prop XXX initiative for two primary reasons: It will increase the cost of healthcare, and legislation already exists to resolve surprise billing issues. The administrative burdens that would result from the initiative’s stipulations and the mandatory,

immediate wage increase for healthcare workers, technicians, nonmanagerial administrative, housekeeping and janitorial staff alike (regardless of performance, experience or skillset) would shift significant new costs directly to patients and employers. If it were to pass, its unintended consequences would negatively affect both consumers and businesses.

The initiative is underwritten by the California-based Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers labor union. The union has a long track record of picketing hospitals and utilizing ballot initiatives in other states to increase their bargaining power with California hospitals. Arizona's healthcare system and providers are the envy of states throughout the country; SALC is opposed to the interference of an out-of-state labor organization that seeks to manipulate Arizona voters into supporting a misleading initiative that would negatively impact patients and healthcare providers throughout Arizona. The adverse impacts would be particularly acute for rural providers which already face greater fiscal challenges than urban ones.

The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in enormous pressures for Arizona's healthcare system and we do not need to create unnecessary administrative hurdles. The business and community leaders of Southern Arizona Leadership Council urge a NO vote on Prop XXX.

**Edward Maxwell, President/CEO, Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Tucson**

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce urges you to vote no on Prop I-24-2020. As the largest Latino business organization in Arizona, and one of the top 10 in the nation, we understand the importance of access to affordable health care for our communities. Prop I-24-2020 will ultimately limit both access and affordability at a time when reliable health care is more crucial than ever.

Our health care system has been inundated with new challenges from the pandemic that has swept across the world. Hospitals and health care providers are serving on the front line to combat COVID-19 and protect our residents. Yet, the proponents of Prop I-24-2020 want to add more stress on an already strained system. Now is not the time to increase costs and burdensome regulations.

The backbone of our economy are small businesses, and those that survived the pandemic are struggling to rebuild. Prop I-24-2020 will increase costs that will be passed on to patients and employers who will be strapped with higher bills and higher insurance costs. We need to ensure small businesses have the tools they need to recover and be successful. Potentially increasing costs to their operations is an ill-advised starting point.

To ensure both hospitals and small businesses aren't forced to close their doors forever, further devastating our communities and our economy, please vote no on Prop I-24-2020.

Isabel Georgelos, Interim President & CEO, Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**Isabel Georgelos, Interim President/CEO, Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Tucson**

The Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce urges you to vote no on Proposition XXX, which would further strain Arizona's health care system amid COVID-19.

Arizona has a global reputation for state-of-the-art patient care centers, but this initiative puts that reputation at tremendous risk.

Proposition XXX heaps new costs onto hospitals, which in turn means pricier treatments for critical services that are already expensive, including neonatal intensive care, burn units, and emergency departments. Those services either get more expensive for patients, or they get reduced or eliminated completely.

For some rural area hospitals, Proposition XXX could be a death knell. Like similar hospitals across the country, rural and smaller Arizona hospitals are already struggling, but Proposition XXX's dramatic new costs and mandates could result in closures. Hospitals like the Flagstaff Medical Center in our community, which not only is a lifeline for thousands across rural Arizona but is also an essential economic driver for the entire region, would be adversely impacted by this Proposition.

The health care system in Arizona is under heavy economic strain amid the COVID19 pandemic, and facilities are struggling to keep up with costs. We see it every day here in Flagstaff.

Burdening this crucial system with more expenses and unnecessary regulations will prove devastating to the entire state, especially so in rural communities.

We should ensure we can continue to protect our health care system and support patients so they can continue to receive world-class care in rural and urban communities alike. We urge you to vote no on Proposition XXX.

**Julie Pastrick, President & CEO, Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce, Flagstaff**

#### VOTE NO ON OUT-OF-STATE HEALTHCARE MANDATES

The members of the Health System Alliance of Arizona are the largest health care providers and employers in Arizona. We are nationally recognized for our commitment to the health and safety of patients and the teams of doctors and nurses that care for them. Our hospitals have continued to prioritize the health and safety of patients and employees by investing in our staff and providing protective gear, equipment and supplies to protect patients. Together, members of the Alliance have supported and invested in teams of providers to build a strong, world class network of care.

But out-of-state special interests seek to jeopardize this important network of care by mandating increased costs on hospitals. If enacted, this ballot measure will devastate the hospital industry, which is still recovering from significant financial losses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Passage of this initiative will exacerbate these losses and force hospitals to reduce their workforce; eliminate lines of service that they are able to offer patients in the community; and, in some instances, close their doors entirely. Ultimately, Arizona patients will suffer the most through higher costs, limited access to care, higher staffing ratios and reduced quality in hospital facilities.

In the wake of a global pandemic, it has never been more important to protect the strength of our hospital industry, which provides critical care to Arizona patients and their families. Protect the hospitals in your community and protect the care they provide to the people of Arizona. We ask you to join us in voting NO.

JENNIFER CARUSETTA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HEALTH SYSTEM ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA  
www.hsaaz.com

**Jennifer Carusetta, Executive Director, Health System Alliance of Arizona, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Health System Alliance of Arizona*

#### STOP SURPRISE BILLING & PROTECT PATIENTS ACT (I-24-2020)

The Arizona Small Business Association asks you to vote no on Prop XXX.

In many Arizona communities, hospitals and healthcare facilities are the largest economic driver. They employ a large number of the residents in high paying jobs that are not always abundant in rural communities. If this measure passes, rural and smaller hospitals will not be able to pay all the costs associated with the ballot initiative, leaving them with no other choice but to close. By closing, thousands of people will be out of work, a community will be without its largest tax base and its citizens will be without a hospital, putting lives at risk.

Hospitals and healthcare facilities have already been stretched to the limit by the COVID-19 pandemic. They have had to absorb enormous costs and adding this mandate will saddle them with more expenses and regulations. Simple economics tell us someone will have to pay for it. That someone is the citizens of Arizona and we will be paying higher healthcare costs and higher insurance premiums.

Arizona already has a law to deal with surprise billing disputes. Additionally, no one is denied healthcare coverage, regardless of ability to pay, under federal law. Instead of adding to the cost of healthcare, we need to find ways to make healthcare more affordable. The ballot box and the initiative process is not the place to make health care policy.

The Arizona Small Business Association supports a market-driven health care system that promotes access to high quality health care at an affordable cost for employers and employees. Prop XXX is wrong for small business. Keep small business thriving and vote no on Prop XXX.

**Jess Roman, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Small Business Association, Phoenix**

As the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, a rural healthcare provider and small business owner, I believe that I have a unique perspective on the challenges that our facing the healthcare industry in our local communities. I have taken steps to strengthen our workforce, to ensure that the reimbursement structure for healthcare providers is strong and that there is an economic and regulatory environment that fosters their ability to grow their practices in all parts of this state.

The world has changed dramatically in recent months.. A global pandemic has wreaked havoc on our economy and has devastated our healthcare industry. Lowered patient volumes, combined with millions of dollars in purchases for personal protective equipment and supplies have placed our physicians, dentists, and hospitals in a precarious place financially.

As a dentist and small business owner, I have experienced these impacts firsthand and am focused on supporting my community and fellow business owners/healthcare providers in their recovering. But Proposition XXX will render all of our efforts moot. This proposal establishes new regulatory mandates on our healthcare industry that will drive up healthcare costs for employers, force hospitals to lay off staff and may force some of our rural safety net facilities to close completely.

As a state, we need to be working together to support our local businesses and healthcare providers as they begin their recovery from the devastation caused by a global pandemic. I ask for your partnership in this effort and to join me in voting no on Proposition XXX.

Dr. Regina Cobb, Representative

### **Regina Cobb, State Representative, Kingman**

Arizona citizens benefit from having access to some of the finest health care providers in the world, including the Mayo Clinic and Phoenix Children's Hospital. This ballot measure would hamper their ability – and every other hospital's ability – to provide the best possible health care to Arizonans. For that reason I'm voting "No" and encourage you to do so as well.

This ballot measure will raise health care costs, and these increases will ultimately be passed on to Arizona consumers and taxpayers via higher bills and higher insurance costs. Health care is already too expensive, and we should be looking for ways to lower costs, not increase them. This ballot measure takes us in entirely the wrong direction.

In addition, this proposal will do great harm to rural Arizona, and may actually force some rural hospitals to close. It would be a terrible outcome if our rural citizens lose their local hospital option and have to travel longer distances to get access to care.

Further, much of this ballot measure is duplicative and unnecessary. Arizona has already passed legislation to deal with surprise billing, and Arizonans can't be denied access to health care because of a pre-existing condition. The proposal tries to fix problems that don't even exist!

Finally, we need to do everything we can to support doctors, nurses, and hospitals, especially as we deal with the COVID pandemic. This ballot measure makes their jobs harder, not easier, and should therefore be rejected.

For all these reasons I'm voting "No" and ask that you do the same. Thank you.

**Doug Ducey, Governor, State of Arizona, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Arizonans for Strong Leadership*

## Vote NO on Misleading Ballot Initiative

The Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce opposes the ballot initiative misleadingly titled the “Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act.”

This initiative is the product of an out-of-state labor union and would have a significant negative impact on Arizona’s economy and the hospitals we depend upon. The proposal attempts to impose California-style wage regulations and bureaucratic red tape onto Arizona hospitals. That means costlier healthcare for Arizona families. Hospitals may be forced to lay off healthcare workers; some facilities – especially those in rural areas – could be forced to close entirely.

At a time when Arizona hospitals are already strained by the response to COVID-19, an initiative that increases costs and makes healthcare less affordable for patients is the last thing we need. As Arizonans, we know best how to manage our own healthcare system – without interference from a California labor union.

The Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce opposes this initiative and urges Arizonans to VOTE NO.

**Mark Stanton, President & CEO, Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, Paradise Valley**  
*Sponsored by Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce*

I urge you to vote no on Prop XXX. As President of the Arizona Senate, a small business owner, and your representative for Legislative District 1, I am deeply concerned about the impact this misguided use of the ballot initiative process will have on healthcare across the state, especially rural communities.

As a representative whose District includes rural hospitals, I am worried about the impact this measure will have on those vital institutions. In many rural communities, the local hospital is the largest employer in the area, often paying some of the highest-wage jobs and providing access to critical care residents need. Burdensome regulations could mean fewer jobs at these facilities or hiring freezes. Moreover, coming on top of the coronavirus crisis that’s put new strains on already tight budgets, it could mean the difference between rural hospitals continuing to operate or shutting their doors forever.

I am also a firm believer that Arizona residents know the best choices for their families. This includes choices around health insurance and working with their doctors to find the right solutions and care options. We should not be using the ballot initiative process to make health policy decisions, particularly when the measures included are redundant. There are state laws protecting consumers against surprise billing disputes and federal laws ensuring equal access to health insurance coverage. Layering on new ballot requirements would only further complicate health care and drive up costs for hospitals and Arizonans alike.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to vote no on Prop XXX. Now is not the time to jeopardize the health care of Arizona families.

**Karen Fann, President, Arizona Senate, Prescott**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

East Valley Partnership urges you to vote NO on Prop XXX. The East Valley is a dynamic and growing region, home to many businesses operating in our communities, creating jobs, and empowering our economy.

We are dedicated to the success of our region by creating a vibrant business environment to grow our economy and provide our residents a desirable place to live. Prop XXX would harm advancing those objectives.

Providing our residents with access to world class health care is not only essential for the health of our communities but also offers high wage jobs to our residents. Prop XXX will increase costs to a health care system already burdened by the pandemic. Cost increases that could force hospitals in our communities to layoff staff and shut down critical services and programs in our communities that our residents and employees alike rely on..

These increased costs will NOT be able to be simply absorbed by the health care institutions—they'll be passed on to patients and employers, including businesses trying to keep afloat after the pandemic. Cost increases that will shutter our fragile economy while we work to rebuild.

Prop XXX will ultimately reduce access and increase costs, hurting businesses, employees, and Arizona families.

Prop XXX is wrong for the East Valley. Help make sure our residents continue to have access to critical care they deserve at an affordable cost and vote no on Prop XXX.

**Denny Barney, President & CEO, PHX East Valley Partnership, Gilbert and Mike Hutchinson, Executive Vice President, PHX East Valley Partnership, Mesa**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

As CEOs in business and community leaders within Greater Phoenix, we are proud of Arizona's reputation as a leader in the healthcare industry. Our hospitals are nationally recognized for quality and standards of care.

We oppose this initiative as Arizona state law already offers patient protections to resolve surprise billing disputes, and under current federal law no one can be denied healthcare insurance coverage. Healthcare policy is too sensitive to be decided at the ballot box and Arizona's healthcare system has been put under enormous stress by the COVID-19 pandemic and should not be further strained by costly mandates.

Out-of-state special interests are, once again, back in Arizona running legislation that isn't right for our state. That is why hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare professionals from all across

the state oppose this initiative too.

Arizona's hospitals and healthcare facilities are already absorbing enormous costs related to COVID-19. This initiative would lead to unavoidable cost increases within our healthcare system. We need to find ways to keep healthcare affordable for all Arizonans. Our focus should be patient-oriented, and our efforts should focus on ensuring that all Arizonans have access to quality care.

Additionally, this initiative would put our rural healthcare systems at risk. It would have a devastating impact on smaller hospitals that might not be able to keep up with the new increased costs. In many of these communities, and across the state, our hospitals are one of the largest employers providing high-quality, high-paying jobs.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we safeguard the vitality of our hospitals and healthcare system for Arizona. We encourage you to vote NO on Proposition XXX.

**Neil Giuliano, President & CEO, Greater Phoenix Leadership, Phoenix**

As the chair of the Arizona Senate Health and Human Services Committee, I am committed to improving the health and welfare of Arizona residents. Rising healthcare costs and insurance premiums along with access to quality care are some of the primary concerns I hear from constituents every day. That's why I urge you to vote no on this cost raising measure. Prop XXX will increase costs to residents at a time when many are struggling to afford basic necessities. At the same time, Prop XXX will also increase the regulatory burden on our already strained healthcare system.

I have dedicated my public service career to protecting Arizona's most vulnerable – children, the disabled, the elderly – while working to increase their access to quality healthcare. The COVID-19 pandemic has stretched the resources of many of our families and healthcare facilities across the state. Increased regulatory costs for hospitals could mean many of the most critical—and often most costly—services like neo-natal intensive care units would have to be cut back or eliminated altogether. That is not a prospect any Arizona family should risk.

Arizona hospitals are internationally known for excellence. At a time when those hospitals are working overtime to keep Arizonans healthy, we should listen to physicians and experts that this ballot initiative will increase healthcare costs without increasing access to care or the quality of care. Now is not the time to saddle our hospitals with new, excessive burdens.

Vote no on Prop XXX.

**Kate Brophy McGee, Senator, Arizona Senate, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

The Arizona Manufacturers Council urges you to vote NO on Proposition XXX.

The growth of manufacturing has been a central component of the Arizona economy over the last decade, bringing good-paying jobs to the state and attracting some of the globe's most innovative companies. Even during the economic downturn that has resulted from the pandemic, Arizona's manufacturing sector has remained a bright spot.

Manufacturers look to Arizona for its outstanding business environment and quality of life.

Proposition XXX puts all that at risk.

If Proposition XXX passes, health care choices in Arizona will shrink and costs will go up, a devastating one-two punch to the state's recovery from the pandemic.

What's worse, Proposition XXX comes from out-of-state special interests, not Arizonans. And remember: if this passes, our elected state legislators won't be able to amend it, even in the case of an emergency, including a pandemic.

Each day, health care heroes are on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic, caring for our loved ones and keeping our communities safe. This initiative put those heroes in jeopardy. The mandates contained in Proposition XXX are so onerous and the costs so high that hospitals will be faced either with laying off health care professionals, passing higher costs on to already struggling patients, or even closing for good, a scenario that is especially acute for hospitals in rural Arizona.

Manufacturers want Arizona to emerge stronger from the pandemic. Proposition XXX makes that prospect less likely. Proposition XXX is dangerous. We urge you to vote NO.

Allison Gilbreath, Executive Director, Arizona Manufacturers Council

**Allison Gilbreath, Executive Director, Arizona Manufacturers Council, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

Arizona hospitals are strongly opposed to the so-called "Stop Surprise Billing & Protect Patients Act." This initiative, if passed, will require hospitals to increase worker pay by more than 20% over the next three years—at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars, which hospitals simply can't afford—especially as they struggle financially to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hospitals value their employees deeply. They are the heroes of our industry and our strongest asset. As such, hospitals work tirelessly to ensure workers are well-compensated. (The average salary for a registered nurse in Arizona well exceeds the national average.) But if hospitals are required to increase wages by an additional 20%, hospitals will be forced to choose between reducing services, laying off staff and/or increasing prices. Rural hospitals that already have unique financial challenges would be particularly vulnerable to closing if this proposal were to pass.

This initiative is not a fix for what ails the healthcare system. Rather, it is a direct threat to the health and safety of Arizonans and will financially devastate hospitals already struggling to meet the challenges of COVID-19. Our hospitals are the cornerstones of their community. We take care of everyone who walks through our doors—in large and small communities throughout the state—providing the care you need when you need it most.

While there are other important provisions in this initiative, such as addressing pre-existing conditions, surprise billing and infection reporting, these issues are already addressed in state and federal law, and in many ways addressed far better than contained in this initiative. Any benefit derived from these other provisions is far outweighed by the devastating consequences of the mandatory 20% wage increase.

For these reasons, we ask you to vote “no” on the Surprise Billing & Protect Patients Act.

**Ann-Marie Alameddin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, Phoenix and Mike Patterson, Chief Executive Officer, Havasu Regional Medical Center, Lake Havasu City**

Our nation is facing an unprecedented public health emergency. The Covid-19 pandemic has presented an enormous challenge and Arizona’s excellent hospitals and healthcare providers have risen to the occasion by consistently delivering quality care even during difficult times.

Improving Arizona’s healthcare infrastructure is a top priority, which is why I stand with hospitals and physicians in opposition to Prop XXX.

Healthcare professionals are in the best position to make decisions about how they treat patients and run their hospitals, and they agree the ballot box is NOT the appropriate place to establish policies for your care.

Prop XXX will drastically increase the cost of healthcare by imposing burdensome regulations and expenses for hospitals across the state. Cost increases that will not be able to be absorbed by our hospitals and will ultimately be passed on to patients and employers. Cost increases that will lead to reduced access to the high-quality health care our residents deserve.

We must ensure our hospitals are adequately staffed and have the capacity to continue to provide world-class treatment and care, especially as they are serving on the frontlines fighting a global pandemic. Prop XXX will force hospitals to slash their budgets and navigate through a regulatory framework that will make their work even more difficult.

Please vote NO on Prop XXX and keep our state’s healthcare system the best in the nation.

**Heather Carter, Senator, Arizona Senate, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

As a longtime champion of rural Arizona and Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I urge you to vote no on Prop XXX.

During the last legislative session, I championed legislation that sought to protect our fragile rural healthcare delivery system. I recognize the critical role this industry plays not just in delivering care to the residents in our community, but in acting as the foundation for the

economy by providing high paying jobs to local residents and supporting jobs in the broader rural economy. Unfortunately, our healthcare industry is now under attack at a time when we need it the most. Proposition XXX imposes an unprecedented burden on our local hospitals with additional government regulation and unreimbursed cost.

Hospitals across Arizona are already experiencing significant financial losses due to COVID-19. The Passage of Proposition XXX will cripple our healthcare delivery system. The impact to rural Arizona will be especially severe. Passage of this Proposition will likely result in hospital closures and the elimination of healthcare jobs and service lines that our patients rely on.

Patients in rural Arizona deserve to have high quality care and high paying jobs in their local communities. I ask you to join me in protecting our local hospitals and economy by voting “NO” on Proposition XXX.

**David Gowan, Senator, Arizona Senate, Sierra Vista**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

Donor Network of Arizona (DNA), is the federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for Arizona. We work every day with hospitals throughout the state of Arizona to facilitate the gift of donation for the 112,361 people who are waiting for an organ transplant in the United States. Our vision, to realize Arizona's potential to save and heal lives, drives DNA to work closely with hospitals and the health professionals and providers who provide vital services to our communities.

DNA has major concerns about how Prop. \_\_\_\_ will impact hospitals throughout the state, and therefore our work to facilitate and promote organ donation. Prop. \_\_\_\_ seems destined to trigger increases in costs for hospitals which in turn will lead to the reduction of staff and programs that serve us all. This is important to Donor Network of Arizona as an employer of Arizonans, and also because organ donation and transplantation requires an experienced, cohesive and capable hospital team. Prop. \_\_\_\_ could make our work less successful and put lives at risk.

We support the Arizona healthcare system and its vital workforce. However, we are opposed to this ballot measure which would compel the healthcare system, already reeling from the impact of COVID-19, to arbitrarily increase costs.

For these reasons, DNA is opposed to Prop. \_\_\_\_ and urges you to vote no.

**Tim Brown, CEO, Donor Network of Arizona, Phoenix**

In December 2019, I authored a study that outlined the tremendous role the hospital industry plays in supporting the Arizona economy. At the time, our hospital industry was an engine that was driving the state's economy forward. In 2018, hospitals supported more than 109,000 jobs in healthcare and other industries and all combined, generated more than \$14 billion in direct economic output.

How quickly the world can change. In just a few short months, the hospital industry has moved from being an economic engine driving our economy into the future, to one that is anticipating years of financial recovery from the impacts of combating COVID-19. Hospitals have been on the front lines of fighting this pandemic and have invested tens of millions of dollars into protecting patients and staff with expenditures for protective equipment, ventilators, and other resources.

Proposition XXX poses an existential threat not just to our hospital industry but to the Arizona economy because it places significant unfunded regulatory and financial mandates on hospitals. Compliance with these mandates and regulations will come at the cost of the very jobs, investments in quality of care and infrastructure that have made the hospital industry so critical to the state's economy. Nowhere will this cost be felt more acutely than in our rural communities, where the cost of compliance will likely be too great, resulting in hospital closures and the loss of the high paying jobs the local communities depend on.

I ask you to help me protect our hospital industry and the Arizona economy by voting NO on Proposition XXX.

**Jim Rounds, President, Rounds Consulting Group, Tempe**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

Prop XXX would be detrimental to the citizens of Arizona, including my constituents, who often rely on small, rural hospitals for their healthcare needs.

Rural hospitals support much of the healthcare needs for Arizona residents outside of Phoenix and Tucson. These hospitals often struggle to make ends meet and new, burdensome regulations could force the closure of these vital facilities. Furthermore, these effects won't be limited to the hospital alone. Often the local hospital is the largest employer in the area offering some of the most competitive wages, and detrimental impacts will be felt by the whole community as hiring freezes and job cuts impact local economies.

These excessive new rules are being imposed on a healthcare system already under enormous strain. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented stress on hospitals and health care facilities. The state's health care system is already facing astronomical costs associated with dealing with the pandemic; any significant additional burdens right now could be the difference between hospitals and health care centers being able to remain open or not.

We all want Arizona residents to have access to quality, affordable care. Proposition XXX, with far-reaching and long-lasting negative impacts, will not help us achieve that goal. I urge you to vote NO on Prop XXX.

**Thomas Shope Jr., Representative, Arizona House of Representatives, Coolidge**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

Vote NO on Proposition XXX.

Out-of-state special interests are attempting to bring their radical agenda to Arizona, and they want to use our ballot initiative process to do it.

It's a trick. What they're proposing—policies on infection control, pre-existing conditions, and insurance billing—have already been addressed by current state and federal law.

Their other proposal to establish a special wage law for health care workers will cause health care costs to spike dramatically—costs that will get passed on to patients in the form of bigger bills or a greater share of insurance premiums.

Maybe the authors of Proposition XXX haven't noticed, but we're in the middle of a global pandemic. Their extremist proposal makes a bad situation worse. Costs will go up. For some hospitals already struggling to stay afloat amid spiking coronavirus caseloads, closure may be the only option, a reality rural Arizona health care providers already know far too well.

Don't fall for this out-of-state scam. Vote NO on Proposition XXX.

**Vince Leach, Senator, Arizona Senate, Tucson**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

Proposition XXX Does No Protect Patients Or Our Healthcare Workers.

The supporters of Prop. XXX claim that it will benefit patients and healthcare workers. It may benefit some people but it will hurt many more. If passed, this one-size-fits-all solution will limit the very healthcare resources that patients need now and in the future. Hospitals and clinics are currently facing greater cost pressures than ever before. Prop. XXX will increase these costs further. Cost increases caused by the passage of Prop. XXX would force hospitals to either increase their fees or, if this is not possible, to cut back on personnel and/or services. Some hospitals, especially smaller ones with little left in their budgets after the costs they incurred due to the COVID-19 Health Emergency, may be forced to cease operations completely.

Passing Prop. XXX will result in less access to healthcare services for patients.

Hospital cutbacks or closures result in fewer job opportunities for healthcare workers. Prop. XXX supporters claim that this will protect patients with preexisting conditions. Federal law already does this and elected leaders on both sides of the aisle in Congress understand that taking this protection away is something the American People will not accept. We do not need Prop. XXX to protect patients with preexisting conditions.

Prop. XXX supporters claim that it will stop surprise billing. Arizona already has laws regarding surprise billings and a process to address them. There are ways to make the process better using the legislative process. Prop. XXX, with all of its other short comings, is not the best way to fix this.

The name Stop Surprise Billing & Protect Patients Act is misleading. A better name might be the Increase Healthcare Costs, Lay-off Healthcare Workers, and Reduce Access to Care Act. Would you want to vote for that?

**Joan Koerber-Walker, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

WESTMARC strongly opposes Prop XXX. This proposition could severely threaten our healthcare system at this critical time fighting COVID-19.

Healthcare is our leading industry in the West Valley where 38% of the Maricopa County healthcare workers reside. Statewide, this system employs hundreds of thousands of workers – many of whom could lose jobs if Prop XXX is passed. This proposal could cut or freeze labor hires from renowned healthcare providers in our region that are known for providing some of our nation’s best care. We cannot risk threatening a quality, world-class system that cares for the lives of millions of patients.

This initiative would drive up bills for patients and rack up extensive insurance costs. We must support policies to keep care affordable for Arizonans.

As you cast your vote for Prop XXX, please consider the additional strain on our healthcare system amid COVID-19. Please consider healthcare workers on the frontlines of the pandemic and the patients they treat. Piling on burdensome regulations and increasing costs will further strain a system that has been working tirelessly to treat patients battling coronavirus and provide other forms of critical care. Prop XXX will not advance care at a time we need it most, it is only destined to create more problems.

We urge you to join us in voting NO on Prop XXX.

**Sintra Hoffman, President & CEO, WESTMARC, Goodyear**  
*Sponsored by Keeping Arizona Healthy*

Prop XXX is funded by California big-union Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers (SEIU-UHW). SEIU is best known in Arizona for picketing at hospitals as well as their failed attempt to qualify a ballot initiative in 2016 to cap hospital executives’ pay. The political group formed to push the effort is “Healthcare Rising Arizona” which is fitting considering the inevitable rising costs the passage of this initiative would cause.

The unions are selling this measure to voters as a way to protect them from being discriminated against for pre-existing conditions as well as “surprise billing.”

The reality is THESE PROTECTIONS ALREADY EXIST in Arizona.

So why would a California labor union spend millions to run a campaign in Arizona to pass laws that already exist?

The answer is the immediate 5 percent pay raise for all direct care hospital workers (including nurses, janitorial staff and food prep staff) that would go into effect upon passage. Although the proponents admit these would be substantial costs that would likely be passed onto patients, it is a convenient way to set the stage to put Big Union bosses in charge of wages and benefits negotiations. Furthermore, no data suggests that hospital workers are under paid; especially in Arizona where cost of living is affordable.

Prop XXX would also increase regulatory burdens on private hospitals and require the Arizona Department of Health Services to levy major fines for falling short. Increased red tape means higher administrative costs which means YOU the consumer pays more. If Americans and especially Arizonans have learned anything from Obamacare it is that government intrusion into healthcare complicates the system, increases costs, and decreases choice.

**Scot Mussi, President, Arizona Free Enterprise Club, Gilbert**

Clever titles are great for novels, but not for ballot propositions that impact the delivery of healthcare in Arizona, especially during this public health uncertainty due to the Coronavirus.

At first blush, the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act may seem beneficial, as it purports to provide protections against insurance exclusions for preexisting conditions, guarantees coverage and renewals, limits premium increases and modifies existing statutes that govern “surprise billing.”

Effectively, all of these protections are already covered under existing state or federal law.

The main focus of this ballot proposition is to establish a mandatory 20% wage increase for direct care hospital workers over four years, without providing any additional funding to hospitals and regardless of a hospital’s economic situation or employee performance.

Such a significant increase in hospital operating costs, without any corresponding increase in revenue, will have an adverse impact on the accessibility and quality of care that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) rely on.

As a community that provides critical services to individuals with I/DD, we have firsthand knowledge of the challenges that are created when out-of-state interests establish mandatory wage increases without providing funding to cover these cost increases. These mandates are enacted without regard for the economic situations of the employer nor do they consider employee performance. Unfortunately, the last mandatory wage increase that voters passed has caused ongoing instability and workforce shortages for those that care for individuals I/DD.

This unfunded mandate will have a debilitating impact on hospitals, potentially jeopardizing

technological or other investments for some hospitals systems. Likewise, potentially subjecting small hospitals to potential closure or reduction in services.

Despite its seductive title, Prop. XXX will not protect individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities – it may actually do the exact opposite.

Vote no on Prop. XXX.

**Wendy Shaw, Chair, Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (AAPPD), Litchfield Park and David Schwartz, Executive Director, Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (AAPPD), Phoenix**