

## We Can Have Better Health Care with Less Stress and Worry

Arizonans should have affordable and transparent health care that brings greater peace of mind, not outrageous medical bills or denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions. The Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act is an initiative on the November ballot that accomplishes that goal.

- Arizonans should not have to worry that we will be denied coverage or charged more money because of a pre-existing condition. (Three million of us have them.) Under our initiative, that worry is eliminated.
- Arizonans should not have to worry about getting a surprise bill for thousands of dollars or going bankrupt over an unexpected medical bill, just because we were transported by the wrong ambulance or received treatment “outside our insurance network.” Our initiative stops surprise billing.
- Arizonans should not have to worry about contracting a disease or preventable infection when we go to the hospital. Our initiative requires our hospitals to meet high national standards for controlling dangerous infections to keep patients and caregivers safe.
- Arizonans should have the comfort of having a skilled and stable healthcare workforce. Our initiative provides severely underpaid frontline hospital workers – the same caregivers who bravely put their own health on the line to battle COVID-19 in Arizona – fair pay so they can remain in their jobs and provide for their families.

Now, more than ever, Arizonans need the peace of mind that comes from knowing we are protected with good, affordable health care. Let’s make the system more accountable and transparent by voting Yes for the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act.

**Jenny David, Committee Chair, Tempe**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

At Phoenix Allies for Community Health, we proudly serve the community by providing access to quality care that many of our patients would not be able to receive otherwise. Our work is a response to a healthcare system that allows too many people to fall through the cracks. We have seen this now more than ever in the devastating loss of life and well-being due to the COVID-19 virus. That is why we ask Arizona voters to pass the "Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act" to fix Arizona’s healthcare system for everyone.

Now, more than ever, we need to make sure that our hospitals take the necessary precautions to keep patients safe. Stopping the spreading of diseases must be their top priority.

The Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act will serve as a guarantee to all Arizonans that their hospitals are meeting higher standards for patient protection. It will also ensure that in the event that the Affordable Care Act is repealed, our patients with pre-existing conditions will still

be protected.

We support this initiative as a positive step toward protecting folks from the worst faults in our country's healthcare system. This doesn't have to be our reality, and we are proud to stand with Arizona voters in working to create a better future.

**Jason Odhner RN, BSN, CCRN, President, Phoenix Allies for Community Health, Phoenix  
*Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

Our respective faiths instill in us the values of compassion, justice, and caring for our communities. We know that when our families are healthy, our neighbors are free from crushing financial burden, and our caretakers are respected we are upholding those values and creating the world we need. This is why, as people of faith, we support the "Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act."

We believe:

No person should be discriminated against for having a pre-existing condition. This initiative will close dangerous loopholes and ensure that Arizonans with pre-existing conditions can live free from fear that they will lose healthcare.

We believe:

No one should have their finances devastated because of surprise out-of-network medical bills. These surprise bills can hit even the most careful healthcare consumers and are particularly harmful for our elderly on fixed incomes and those living in poverty. This ballot measure stops surprise billing in emergency situations, including ambulance rides.

We believe:

Hospitals should be a place to be healed, not to become sicker. Too many Arizona hospitals are exposing patients to dangerous infections like C.Diff and MRSA. This initiative empowers the Arizona Department of Health to fine hospitals when they have above average rates of infection.

We believe:

Healthcare workers who care for us and our families deserve our respect and thanks. By passing this measure, we will provide nurses, technicians, social workers, and others with a much-needed wage increase to keep our loved caregivers in state and able to provide us the care we need.

As leaders of faith-based justice, we urge you to support the "Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act." Join us in supporting an initiative that lives up to our values as people of faith and strives to provide protection, relief, and accountability for our fellow Arizonans.

**Rev. Katie Sexton, Executive Director, Arizona Faith Network, Glendale**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

As a Registered Nurse, I've seen the urgent needs of our health care system, which is why I strongly support the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act. But I also see this through the eyes of patients who receive surprise out-of-network bills that cost thousands on top of already expensive procedures.

One of those patients is my husband, Fernando Vicino.

In 2019, Fernando had open heart surgery. Despite having what we thought was excellent insurance through our jobs, we soon discovered huge bills from out-of-network providers who we had never even heard of. What was already an expensive procedure ended up costing thousands more, which was impossible to prepare for.

This can be a financially devastating blow and it's a reality that is all too common for many Arizonans. In our state, over one in every ten hospital admissions will result in a surprise bill. Nationwide, over half of all ground ambulance rides result in an out-of-network bill, forcing patients to choose between paying off their debt, their rent or mortgage or putting food on the table for their families.

That's why I am so glad Arizona voters have the opportunity to decide to fix this and other problems with the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act. This initiative will raise standards for transparency and accountability, protect patients with pre-existing conditions, and put an end to the predatory act of surprise billing.

Too many Arizonans are already living paycheck to paycheck, or with fixed incomes. Surprise medical bills hurt our economy and the well-being of our families. Together, our Yes vote can make healthcare better for all Arizonans a reality.

-Jenny David

**Jenny David, Registered Nurse, Chandler**

I am proud to stand with the following organizations in support of the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act:

Rural Arizona Engagement  
Our Voice Our Vote  
Poder in Action  
American Federation of Teachers - Arizona  
Democracy for America - Maricopa County  
CWA Local 7019  
Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence  
Iconico

Arizona Democratic Party  
Central Arizonans for a Sustainable Economy

-Panthea Begay

**Panthea Begay, Phoenix**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

Right now, seniors across our state and country are directly experiencing the problems in our healthcare system as we face the COVID-19 virus. Even before this virus, seniors faced problems from surprise billing, hospital acquired infections, and lack of coverage for pre-existing conditions. That is why support for the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act is now more important than ever.

Over the course of our lives, we will all develop health conditions as we age. That is why we must ensure that patients with pre-existing conditions are not discriminated against when it comes to health coverage or care. We also must stop the surprise out-of-network medical bills that can bankrupt those of us now living on a fixed income. And we must prevent our hospitals from spreading infections that kill nearly 100,000 Americans every year, many of whom are seniors and retirees. Too many of the Arizona hospitals we count on consistently fail to meet the national standards for infection control and patient safety and have received cuts to Medicare as a result. This is unacceptable and endangers not just seniors, but every patient who receives care.

These are uncertain times for many of us, making it more important than ever that we work to keep each other safe and healthy. We must act now to improve Arizona healthcare, and supporting the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act will give seniors peace of mind knowing that our hospitals are kept to the highest standards possible.

**Michael Smith, Phoenix; Terri Streich, Glendale; Robin Burgeson, Fountain Hills; Ricky Spann, Glendale; Lizzie Makalisa Dennis, Tempe; Marshall Militano, Glendale; and Sarah Militano, Glendale**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

Do you or a loved one have any of the following pre-existing conditions?

cancer • stroke • epilepsy • asthma • diabetes • high blood pressure • mental disorders (depression/bipolar/eating disorder/anxiety disorder/trauma/obsessive compulsive disorder/schizophrenia/ etc.) • Crohn's disease/ulcerative colitis • arthritis • inflammatory joint disease • acne • fibromyalgia • pregnancy or expectant parent (including men) • pending surgery or hospitalization • chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)/emphysema • epilepsy • coronary artery/heart disease, bypass surgery • alcohol or drug abuse • Alzheimer's • dementia • irregular menstrual periods • obesity • muscular dystrophy • congestive heart failure • paralysis • organ transplant • multiple sclerosis • pneumonia • kidney disease/renal failure • hepatitis (B,C, or chronic) • hemophilia • cerebral palsy • transsexualism • Parkinson's disease • AIDS/HIV •

paraplegia • cystic fibrosis • restless leg syndrome • anemia • arteritis • dialysis • tuberculosis • scleroderma • Celiac disease • urinary tract infections • neurological disorders • narcolepsy • high cholesterol • Lyme disease • knee surgery • kidney stones • migraines • tonsillitis • acid reflux • C-section • Seasonal Affective Disorder • heartburn • pacemaker • ulcers • postpartum depression • ear infections • fractures • varicose veins • ear infections • sleep apnea • lupus • vertigo • COVID 19

\*And this is just a partial list\*

If yes, some insurance plans may choose to not cover your condition or charge you more.

Prop XXX will close loopholes that allow junk insurance plans to take advantage of us.

Vote YES to end discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, once and for all.

**Matt Capalby, Flagstaff**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare***

An Important Message From The Arizona Coalition To End Sexual And Domestic Violence

RIGHT NOW, SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS CONSIDERED A “PRE-EXISTING CONDITION”

YOUR YES VOTE CAN STOP THAT.

The loophole that allows insurance plans to discriminate against patients with pre-existing conditions does real damage to the lives and finances of Arizonans. You are probably familiar with many of them, such as cancer, diabetes, and many others.

But one that you might not know of is perhaps the cruelest: being a survivor of sexual or domestic violence can be considered a pre-existing condition.

This discrimination is one of the most harmful acts that our healthcare system can enact against victims of sexual and domestic violence. Anyone who has received physical or psychological trauma from these events can be denied healthcare coverage, creating further hardship on multiple levels. This practice has no place in a just or healthy society.

This is what makes the "Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act" so important. It enacts crucial protections that no Arizonan should go without. Around 2.8 million Arizonans with pre-existing conditions will be guaranteed access to healthcare through their insurance without the fear that they will be forced to front the bill or pay for an extensive out-of-network payment.

It will also enable hospital workers, the majority of whom are women, to be able to become more financially stable, granting them independence from dangerous domestic situations where they may feel trapped due to financial hardship.

The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence proudly supports the "Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act" because survivors deserve to have these protections and access to healthcare and healing. They are some of the strongest and bravest among us. They deserve our support at the ballot box.

**Katie Ares, MPA, Public Policy Specialist, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Goodyear**

*Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)*

Veterans vote YES on Prop XXX

Plain and simple: all of us will have a pre-existing condition at some point in our lives and no one should be denied healthcare coverage or face higher costs as a result.

Veterans who develop pre-existing conditions while overseas are coming back home and finding that they are not protected from insurance discrimination.

Service to country should not result in incurring outrageous insurance costs.

And absolutely no one, especially Arizonan veterans and their families, should have their lives turned upside down by a surprise medical bill.

That's why we support the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act. This common sense measure protects our loved ones from having their finances devastated because of a medical emergency, and it keeps us all safer and healthier.

Now, more than ever, we all need to work together to fix our failing healthcare system and get the care we've been promised.

Join Arizona veterans in voting yes on Prop XXX.

**Steve Arnold, Tucson; Jean McKittrick, Tucson; Mark Cardenas, Phoenix; Joseph Morales, Glendale; and David Lucier, Tempe**

*Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)*

As COVID-19 was sweeping through our state, we wanted more than ever to support the healthcare workers and frontline caregivers who were risking their lives to keep Arizonans safe.

When we learned that the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act was in danger of not making it on the ballot, we stepped up to help by safely collecting signatures and getting them notarized so that Arizona voters would have a chance to decide on improving healthcare for Arizonans.

This crisis has brought out the best in Arizona and shows what we can do if we stand together to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors. This initiative is one example of how people can come together and face adversity by passing legislation that will save lives and keep Arizonans healthy. We were proud of being able to give back to the community by getting this initiative qualified, and now you can do the same by voting YES in November for the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act.

**Denice Rapp, RN, Surprise; Nympha Njeri, CNA, Phoenix; and Flannery Diehl, RN, Phoenix**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

It is our calling as Registered Nurses to provide quality care. But when Arizona's healthcare system doesn't meet that standard, it hurts all of us, especially our patients.

Even before the coronavirus, hospital-acquired infections such as MRSA killed up to 100,000 patients across the country in just one year. What should be an entirely preventable occurrence ends up costing people's lives. This is what led us to joining others in co-founding Healthcare Rising Arizona.

No one should get sicker from visiting the hospital, but in 2018, 15 Arizona hospitals received penalties for poor patient safety ratings, which includes, bedsores, patient falls, and hospital-acquired infections. That's why we support the Stop Surprise Billing and protect Patients Act.

This initiative would encourage hospitals in Arizona meet the national safety requirements for hospitals approved by the FDA by holding them accountable for poor performance. It would also protect patients by making sure that if a patient requires treatment for an infection, they won't receive a surprise bill that could add thousands to already expensive procedures.

Arizonans cannot wait another day to ensure that they aren't needlessly put at risk due to substandard infection controls. All of us deserve better.

**Margail O'Connor, RN, Scottsdale; Ruth Warren, RN, Phoenix; Shara Carrillo, RN, Gilbert; and Monica Lindgen, RN, Gilbert**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

I am a lifelong Republican voter, and I stand in support of the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act.

When I think about the values that founded our country and our state - freedom, accountability and respecting the people's vote - I see these reflected in this ballot initiative.

Freedom from unfair surprise medical billing that can bankrupt families even when we do our best to follow the rules and stay in-network for our care.

Accountability by closing the loophole that allows insurance plans to deny coverage or care for pre-existing conditions when they need medical coverage or care.

And democracy by putting this measure in front of Arizona voters, and letting us decide how our state will face these challenges.

I urge your vote in support of this initiative.

**Erin Hazin, Phoenix**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

Our belief that everyday Arizonans should be the ones who hold the power is inherently connected to having access to quality healthcare. If people are sick or unable to afford a visit to the hospital, there are dire consequences for their families and their well-being. This is why, as we have seen with COVID-19, it is more important than ever to support the "Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act."

The facts are simple: folks who visit the hospital when they are sick should not get an infection and become sicker. Patients who need life-saving care shouldn't be hit with an out-of-network bill that could bankrupt their families for treatment they thought was covered by their insurance. And we cannot go back to the days when 2.8 million Arizonans with pre-existing conditions could lose their coverage or be discriminated against due to no fault of their own.

Every Arizonan should be able to get healthcare when they need it so we can keep our state healthy. We stand in support of the "Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act," because we will only face greater injustice if we allow the current system to continue manipulating patients out of receiving quality care.

**Roman Ulman, President, Democracy for America - Maricopa County, Mesa**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

Being a small business owner isn't easy, and it means taking smart risks. When we open our businesses, we're betting on ourselves, our employees, and on our fellow Arizonans to recognize and reward quality, service, and hard work.

But all our hard work and plans can be derailed in a moment by a surprise out of network health care bill.

When you're in an emergency situation, you can't ask every professional if they're in your health insurance network, and even going to an in-network hospital doesn't mean you're safe. You can still get billed for thousands of dollars for care while you were incapacitated. These surprise bills can be financially destructive, and are part of why medical bills are the leading cause of bankruptcy in the country.

For a small business owner, that can mean losing everything we've worked for over many years, leaving our families destitute, and leaving our employees out of work as well. Arizona doesn't need to risk more businesses closing down, and more families out of work. That's why I'm asking you to vote for the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act.

**Alejandro Larios, Owner, La Bohemia, Phoenix**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

I join these organizations in supporting Prop XXX

Phoenix Allies for Community Health

Living United for Change in Arizona

North Phoenix Seniors

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Sky Harbor Lodge 2559

Mi Familia Vota

Desert Progressives

UNITE HERE Local 11

Poder Latinx

Young Democrats of Arizona

AFSCME

Arizona Faith Network

**Steven Slugocki, Phoenix**

***Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)***

Our community leaders know firsthand about the shortcomings of our healthcare system. We've seen loved ones worry over losing coverage due to a pre-existing condition, or choose between paying surprise out-of-network bills or supporting their families. A lack of access to proper healthcare can lead not only to economic damages, but also a devastating loss of life and opportunity.

The COVID-19 virus has shown us the tragic effects of denying people basic access to healthcare and preventative testing. By preventing discrimination against Arizonans with pre-existing health conditions, stopping surprise billing, and enacting crucial infection control protections, this ballot measure will help our state recover and build a stronger healthcare system to face future threats.

Our Voice, Our Vote AZ believes in uplifting the voices of patients, healthcare workers, and community members in order to create positive change, and this ballot initiative will ensure that their voices are heard and acted upon. These protections will benefit all Arizona families, no matter where we live or what language we speak, and will help to eliminate the health disparities that continue to plague our communities of color.

We cannot stand on the sidelines when our politicians have made it clear that they lack the vision

to solve our state's healthcare problems. If they won't do the right thing, then we will trust the people of Arizona to do it by voting to pass the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act.

**Reginald Bolding Jr., Co-Executive Director, Our Voice, Our Vote Arizona, Laveen**  
*Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)*

Frontline hospital workers aren't just caregivers who dedicate their lives to the well-being of our patients: we're patients, too. Like many Arizonans, we face life's daily struggles, including pre-existing health conditions. Because we've dedicated our lives to care, we know that without protections for people with pre-existing conditions, we and our fellow patients can see loss of coverage or skyrocketing costs. None of us want our fellow Arizonans to have to deal with these struggles. Now, we have a chance to prevent that from happening.

The Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act will, among other things, protect Arizonans from losing their coverage due to pre-existing conditions. It will also ensure that community members don't lose coverage, or get stuck with sub-par healthcare plans that don't cover pre-existing conditions. It gives peace of mind to healthcare workers like us who want the best for our patients, our families, and our communities.

Our healthcare system should not be designed to leave anyone behind, and that includes the 2.8 million Arizonans with pre-existing conditions. Our ballot initiative ensures that they cannot be denied coverage, no matter what.

**Moustafa Hazin, Physician, Phoenix; Virginia Solorzano, Phlebotomist, Phoenix; Diane Watson, LVN, Retired, Tucson; and Dora Parra, EVS, Laveen**  
*Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)*

Depriving people of access to healthcare is a denial of basic humanity and the right to exist. Communities of color experience greater inequality in life expectancy and barriers to quality health care due to systematic racism within and outside the healthcare system. Racial inequality not only impacts our quality of life, but can influence how we access care and how we are treated throughout the healthcare system.

We are also on the frontlines of battling the COVID-19 virus. Many of the crucial jobs in hospitals are predominately staffed by people of color who are currently fighting for their lives and those of their patients while struggling with factors such as a lack of personal protective equipment.

Podar in Action supports the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act because it will protect both patients and our working healthcare heroes. It will boost infection control at hospitals across Arizona, something that has been severely lacking in our state for many years, and will ensure that our loved ones are not faced with surprise out-of-network bills when they come home, which can be the difference between putting food on the table or facing bankruptcy. Additionally, this initiative will protect the millions of Arizonans with pre-existing conditions,

who for years were forced to live without medical care due to denial of coverage.

This initiative will serve as a positive step both for patients who have experienced injustice in various forms, including devastating surprise bills and denial of coverage, but also for the healthcare employees who deserve appreciation and respect while working to keep Arizonans healthy. It is now more important than ever that all of us come together in order to save lives, and the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act will do just that.

**Viridiana Hernandez, Executive Director, Poder in Action, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare*

The coronavirus has shown that all of us—whether we are seniors, young adults and children, patients or hospital workers—are vulnerable when it comes to our health.

When hospital workers and patients are not given adequate protections, we are all susceptible to hospital-acquired infections. When we receive life-or-death services while incapacitated, we can all be hit with a surprise out of network bill that makes recovery even harder. When we have a pre-existing condition, we are all concerned about being unable to receive care or coverage or being charged more than we can afford for our healthcare.

Here in Arizona, we see a hospital system that has experienced Medicare penalties due to repeatedly failing to meet the standard for patient safety ratings, including hospital-acquired infections.

The Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act will strengthen infection controls for hospitals in our state in order to meet nationwide standards. With these protections, patients will have greater peace of mind knowing that they will not become sicker than when they first visited the hospital.

We cannot wait for more people to die before our leaders take this seriously enough to act. That's why we're putting this in the hands of Arizona voters this November.

**Blythe Williams, Sun City and Michael Lawrence, Phoenix**  
*Sponsored by Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare (Healthcare Rising AZ)*