

# PROTECT PATIENTS



## REJECT the ATTACK on Community Health Centers



## Dangerous Ballot Measure Threatens Care for Millions of Vulnerable Patients

A reckless statewide ballot proposition would threaten millions of California patients who rely on community health centers and clinics for their care. It would **divert billions of dollars away from patient care** into new state bureaucracy, forcing health centers and clinics to drastically reduce patient services and even close. Here's why a broad coalition of patients, health care providers, community leaders, and others oppose this dangerous measure:



### A DANGEROUS ATTACK ON PATIENTS

- Research from health care economists at the Berkeley Research Group (BRG) found this measure would divert **\$1.7 billion** from community health centers and clinics at a time when clinics are already facing difficult financial challenges and federal and state funding cuts.
- In fact, according to BRG, if this measure passes, two-thirds of all health centers and clinics in the state will be pushed into **operating in the red**. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst warns “**clinics might close**” because of this measure.
- This dangerous measure will force clinics to shut down and result in deep cuts to patient services – hurting millions of patients who rely on community health centers and clinics for their care.



### HURTS CALIFORNIA'S MOST VULNERABLE

- Community health centers and clinics provide essential care for millions, including primary care, prenatal care, urgent care, mental and behavioral health services, telehealth, and dental services.
- They serve the uninsured, 1 in 4 Medi-Cal patients, immigrants, working families, seniors, veterans, and LGBTQ+ individuals—regardless of ability to pay.
- This measure would **harm disadvantaged patients** already facing barriers to care.



## **ARBITRARY EXEMPTIONS THREATEN VITAL SERVICES**

- This measure **excludes funding for vital services** that are essential to serving patients like nurse and physician managers, translation services, health care coverage enrollment navigators, patient transportation, and community outreach and education.
- **The measure even excludes funding to build new clinics**—preventing community health centers from expanding access to care in communities most in need.
- These arbitrary exemptions make no sense and will result in cuts to critical patient services.



## **INCREASE ER OVERCROWDING AND HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR ALL**

- In many rural and underserved areas, community health centers and clinics are often **the only source of care**.
- Clinic closures and a reduction in available services will lead patients to skip vital preventive care, **increase emergency room visits, and worsen overcrowding** and wait times for all patients.
- According to the state's former independent Legislative Analyst, **the proposition will increase health care costs in the state by more than \$1 billion**, primarily because displaced patients will be forced to receive care in more costly settings like hospitals and emergency rooms.



## **UNNECESSARY**

- Community health centers and clinics are **heavily regulated** by the federal and state governments, with strict reporting requirements and audits.
- They are not-for-profit organizations—focusing resources on patient care and community benefits, not profits or shareholders.
- And a majority of the board of directors must be patients of that facility, ensuring decisions reflect patient and community needs.



## **PUTS POLITICS ABOVE PATIENTS**

- **This measure is a shameful power play by politically powerful union executives—weaponizing the ballot measure process to force their demands.**
- **Patients should never be used as pawns.** Pushing a dangerous ballot measure that will shut down community health centers and harm millions of patients is wrong.

# **STOP the Dangerous ATTACK on Vulnerable Patients**

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