

## Measure Jeopardizes the Lives of Dialysis Patients, Reduces Access to Our Doctors & Increases Health Care Costs for All

Approximately 80,000 Californians with kidney failure rely on dialysis to stay alive. But even though voters overwhelmingly rejected their flawed ballot measure last election, **one special interest** is promoting another dangerous proposition that would reduce access to care for these dialysis patients, putting their lives at risk. The proposition would also hurt all Californians by making us wait longer to see our doctors and increasing health care costs by hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Here's why patients, doctors, dialysis providers, community and health care leaders all oppose this dangerous and costly proposition:

### Puts Dialysis Patients' Lives at Risk

- ▶ Dialysis does the job of an individual's failed kidneys, removing toxins from the body. Dialysis is not optional. **Missing even a single treatment increases a patient's risk of death by 30%.**
- ▶ A study by the Berkeley Research Group found the measure's requirement of a "physician on-site at all times" would increase dialysis treatment costs by \$320 million every year and that **nearly half of the clinics in the state would become financially unsustainable.**
- ▶ According to the independent, non-partisan Legislative Analyst: *"the measure's requirement that each (dialysis clinic) have a physician onsite during all treatment hours would increase each (clinic's) costs by several hundred thousand dollars annually on average ... Given the higher costs due to the measure, some governing entities **may decide to close some clinics.**"*
- ▶ This proposition **could force hundreds of dialysis clinics to cut back services or shut down** completely - making it more difficult for dialysis patients to access their life-saving treatments and putting their lives at risk.

### Makes our Doctor Shortage Worse

- ▶ Currently, each dialysis patient is already under the care of their own doctor who is a kidney specialist. **Dialysis treatments are administered by registered nurses and licensed dialysis technicians specifically trained in kidney dialysis care.** And every dialysis clinic is required by law to have a physician medical director who monitors a clinic's care.
- ▶ It makes no sense to require a full-time physician to sit around in a dialysis clinic, when they won't even be involved in patient care.
- ▶ There are 600 dialysis clinics in California. This proposition **will take thousands of practicing doctors away from their current patients** and push them into non-caregiving, bureaucratic roles at dialysis clinics – **making it harder for all of us to get appointments with our doctors and treatment at our hospitals.**

## **Increases Health Care Costs for Taxpayers and Consumers**

- ▶ According to the Legislative Analyst, the measure would result in *“Increased state and local health care costs ... resulting from increased dialysis treatment costs.”*
- ▶ Analysis done by the Berkeley Research Group found this measure would **increase dialysis treatment costs by \$320 million every year.**
- ▶ That will increase costs for all of us in the form of **higher insurance premiums** and **higher taxes** for government-sponsored health care.

## **Another Abuse by a Special Interest that Puts Patients at Risk**

- ▶ This measure is being sponsored by the United Healthcare Workers West (UHW) union which bankrolled Proposition 8 on the November 2018 ballot. Prop 8 would have harmed dialysis patients and lost at the polls by 20 points.
- ▶ This same union has spent more than \$52 million bankrolling 29 harmful ballot measures over the past 8 years.
- ▶ While unions have the right to try to unionize workers, it's not right to abuse the initiative system and use vulnerable patients as political pawns.



**Puts patients at risk**



**Makes doctor shortage worse**



**Increases health care costs**



**Abuse by a special interest**

**STOP**   
**DANGEROUS & COSTLY**  
**Dialysis Proposition**

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