

# Why Business & Taxpayer Groups Oppose the Dangerous & Costly Dialysis Proposition

## Unnecessary Measure Increases Health Care Costs & Jeopardizes the Lives of Dialysis Patients

The United Healthcare Workers West (UHW) union has a long history abusing California's ballot initiative process in an attempt to advance its agenda, at the expense of patients and workers. Just two years after voters rejected their flawed dialysis measure (Proposition 8), UHW is back at it again promoting another dangerous and costly dialysis proposition that would jeopardize the lives of dialysis patients and increase health care costs by hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Here's why businesses, patients, doctors, dialysis providers, community, health care groups and many others oppose this measure:

### Increases Health Care Costs for Taxpayers and Consumers

- ▶ The main provision of the ballot measure mandates that each of the roughly 600 dialysis clinics in California have a physician on the premises during all operating hours, in a non-caregiving, bureaucratic role.
- ▶ Because dialysis treatment is prescribed by a patient's personal nephrologist and administered by specially-trained nephrology nurses and patient care technicians, the physician-on-site requirement is unnecessary and would dramatically increase costs of care.
- ▶ A study by the Berkeley Research Group found the measure's physician requirement would increase dialysis treatment costs **by \$320 million every year**.
- ▶ According to the independent, non-partisan Legislative Analyst, this provision would result in *"Increased state and local health care costs ... resulting from increased dialysis treatment costs."*
- ▶ These increased costs will be passed on to all of us in the form of **higher insurance premiums** and **higher taxes** for government-sponsored health care.

### 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%.**
- ▶ The Berkeley Research Group analysis estimates that nearly **half of all dialysis clinics in the state would become financially unsustainable due to this measure.**
- ▶ According to the Legislative Analyst: *"Given the higher costs due to the measure, some governing entities **may decide to close some clinics.**"*
- ▶ If **hundreds of dialysis clinics are forced to cut back services or shut down** – it will make it more difficult for dialysis patients to access their life-saving treatments and will put their lives at risk.

## Makes our Doctor Shortage Worse

- ▶ This proposition will take **thousands of practicing doctors away from their current patients** and push them into bureaucratic roles at the 600 dialysis clinics across California – **making it harder for all of us to get appointments with our doctors and treatment at our hospitals.**
- ▶ It makes no sense to require a full-time physician to sit around in a dialysis clinic in a non-care role, at a time when our doctor shortage is only projected to worsen.

## Requires Government Approval Before Changing Operations or Closing a Dialysis Clinic, Even if the Measure Puts Clinics in the Red

- ▶ This proposition takes operating decisions out of the hands of dialysis providers by mandating that clinic operators receive government approval prior to closing or reducing services at clinics.
- ▶ Dialysis providers and independent businesses should not be forced to go through a lengthy and bureaucratic government process in order to make operational changes needed to ensure viable care.

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

- ▶ Since 2012, UHW has spent more than \$52 million of its members' dues money bankrolling 29 ballot measures in an attempt to force health care providers to unionize workers so the organization can increase its union dues.
- ▶ It's not right that a **special interest group would abuse our initiative system**, ignore the will of the voters and put tens of thousands of patients' lives at risk **just so they can make more dues money.**



**Puts patients at risk**



**Makes doctor shortage worse**



**Increases health care costs**



**Abuse by a special interest**

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

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