

Why Health Care Groups Oppose the Dangerous & Costly Dialysis Proposition

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

Even though voters overwhelmingly rejected their flawed ballot measure last election, one special interest is promoting yet another dangerous proposition that would reduce access to care for the approximately 80,000 Californians who need regular dialysis to stay alive. The proposition, slated for the November 2020 ballot, 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 the California Medical Association, dialysis providers, patients, doctors, community and health care leaders all oppose this dangerous and costly proposition:**

Makes our Physician Shortage Worse for Patients and Health Care Providers

- ▶ The measure would arbitrarily require a physician to be on-site in a bureaucratic, non-caregiving role at all times during a dialysis clinic's operating hours.
- ▶ This requirement is duplicative in that dialysis treatment is prescribed by a patient's own nephrologist and administered by specially trained nephrology nurses and patient care technicians. And each dialysis clinic is already overseen by a physician medical director.
- ▶ There are 600 dialysis clinics in California. This proposition **will take thousands of practicing doctors away from their current (non-dialysis) patients** and push them into bureaucratic roles at dialysis clinics – **making it harder for all Californians to get appointments with our doctors and making it more difficult for physicians' offices, health clinics and hospitals to fill needed physician positions.**
- ▶ There is no evidence to support the notion that requiring a full-time physician to sit in a dialysis clinic, when they can't be involved in patient care, will do anything to advance or increase quality care. Doctors go to medical school to help and treat patients; they shouldn't be pushed into non-care roles at a time when our physician shortage is only projected to worsen.

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 and that **nearly half of the clinics in the state would become financially unsustainable.**

Puts Dialysis Patients' Lives at Risk (CONTINUED)

- ▶ According to the independent, non-partisan Legislative Analyst: "Given the higher costs due to the measure, some governing entities **may decide to close some clinics.**"
- ▶ If dialysis clinics are unable to cover their costs, they could be forced to **cut back services or shut down** completely - making it more difficult for dialysis patients to access their life-saving treatments and put their lives at risk.

Increases Health Care Costs for Taxpayers and Consumers

- ▶ Analysis done by the Berkeley Research Group found this measure would **increase dialysis treatment costs by \$320 million every year.** Higher costs for dialysis will be passed on to all patients 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

NoDialysisProp.com

Ad paid for by Stop the Dangerous & Costly Dialysis Proposition,
sponsored by dialysis providers and caregivers
Committee major funding from
Fresenius Medical Care
DaVita
Funding details at www.fppc.ca.gov