



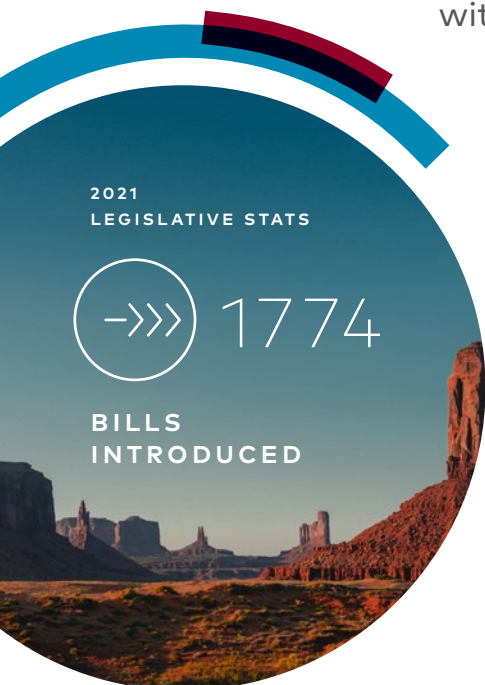
2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – VIRTUAL, BUT VERY REAL

As the 55th Arizona Legislature began, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and with Governor Doug Ducey giving the annual State of the State address virtually from his office, it was clear that this session would be one for the history books. Many doubted that the legislature would convene for a complete session—surely an outbreak would bring a halt to the proceedings at some point. Committee proceedings were often glitchy as legislators, staff, lobbyists, and the general

public struggled to adjust to virtual meetings. On top of an increased workload due to the shortened 2020 session, the ArMA advocacy team faced the “new normal” of meeting through a computer screen to lobby legislators and negotiate with stakeholders.



Against the odds, the 2021 legislative session was able to complete its business. Most importantly, the ArMA advocacy team, guided by its Legislative and Government Affairs Committee, had a very successful session overall. While there were some disappointments, as is the case with every session, ArMA took a lead role in passing significant legislation benefitting Arizona physicians in the areas of telehealth, prior authorization reform, liability protection, and other vital healthcare measures.

ArMA's Legislative and Government Affairs Committee uses seven bill rating terms to track legislation:

- ACTIVE SUPPORT** approval of the bill; maximum effort will be made to achieve enactment
- GENERAL SUPPORT** approval of the principle of the bill; effort will be made to achieve enactment
- NO ACTION-MONITOR** no position on the bill but it will be tracked
- GENERAL NON-SUPPORT** disapproval of the bill; effort will be made to achieve defeat
- ACTIVE NON-SUPPORT** disapproval of the bill; maximum effort will be made to achieve defeat
- ACTIVE STUDY** the bill contains both supportable and opposable elements, and will be tracked
- NEUTRAL** neither approval nor disapproval of the bill; utilized as a public record of neutrality

ACTIVE BILLS

HB2454—Major Telehealth Reform Passed

HB2454 was signed into law in early May 2021, putting Arizona among the national leaders in establishing statutory guidelines for encouraging telehealth services and protecting the patients who use it. Sponsored by Representative Regina Cobb, who worked with Senior Policy Advisor Christina Corieri in the Governor's office, ArMA was enlisted early in the process as one of the stakeholders involved in the drafting of the legislation. ArMA appreciated the opportunity to share our input on this comprehensive and complex reform measure.

Last March, Governor Ducey put Executive Order 2020-15 into place that paved the way for telehealth expansion by including key provisions like telehealth payment parity and removal of site restrictions. The enactment of HB2454 makes those reforms permanent.

There were many wins with this omnibus. They include:

- Payment parity for all audio-visual encounters
- Elimination of site restrictions
- Allowances and payment for certain telephone encounters
- Protection/prioritization for in-person care.

Under the new law, for audio-only encounters, payment parity is permitted under two conditions: 1) when a physician has an existing relationship with the patient and the patient can't manage the audio-visual encounter or there are other telecom-

munications challenges, and 2) when the patient initiates the call or agrees to it in advance of the call. An important exception is that there is payment parity for audio-only encounters regardless of previous relationship or technology challenges when the encounter is for behavioral health or substance use disorder.

Another important reform is covered telehealth services shall be provided regardless of where the subscriber is located or the type of site. In-person care is also protected; under the new law, insurance companies are not allowed to meet network adequacy requirements using contracted providers who only offer telehealth services and don't offer in-person care in Arizona or within 50 miles of the border.

HB2454 substantially expanded the previously existing telemedicine statute. Changes include detailed guidance on when telehealth is to be used and requirements for out-of-state telehealth providers. In determining whether a telehealth encounter is appropriate instead of in-person services, physicians shall make a good faith effort to apply their clinical judgment, considering the condition of the patient, necessity of physical intervention, and access to telehealth. The physician should also consider whether the telehealth communication medium will allow them to assess, diagnose, and treat the patient effectively.

The new law also allows out-of-state providers to provide telehealth services. HB2454 was a priority for Governor Ducey. ArMA worked with his staff to

ensure that appropriate guidelines were put in place to protect Arizona patients and prioritize in-person care delivered by Arizona physicians. Health care providers who are not licensed in Arizona may now provide telehealth to Arizona patients only if they:

- Register with the relevant Arizona regulatory Board or agency, pay a fee, and provide proof of licensure, evidence of liability insurance, and provide a statutory agent so they can be served in Arizona; **and**
- Register with the Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program before prescribing any controlled substances; **and**
- Hold a current, valid, unrestricted license to practice in another state and are not subject to any past or pending disciplinary proceedings in any jurisdiction; **and**
- Act in full compliance with laws and rules of Arizona; **and**
- Maintain liability insurance consistent with Arizona requirements; **and**
- Consent to Arizona jurisdiction for any disciplinary action or legal proceeding related to the care they deliver; **and**
- Annually update their registration; **and**
- Annually submit a report with the number of patients served in that year and the type of telehealth encounters delivered.

Again, in an effort to prioritize in-person care, an out-of-state telehealth provider registered

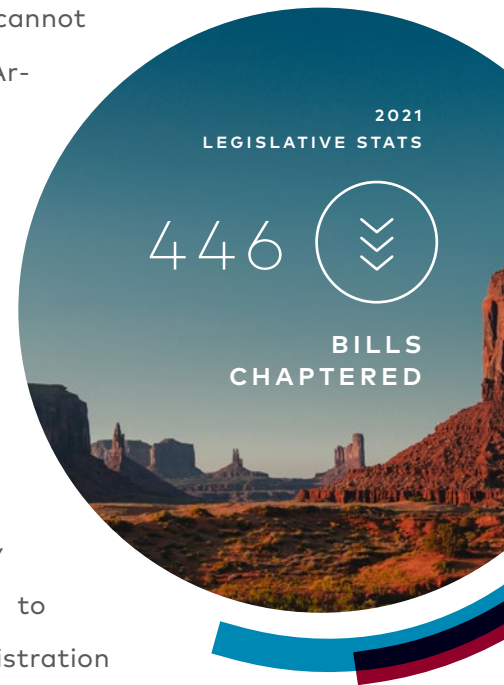
ArMA knows that telehealth is here to stay and wants its members to stay informed. For those interested in more resources, ArMA has a toolkit to help practices seamlessly integrate telehealth with templates, policies, and procedures. A link to those resources can be found [on this page](#). The American Medical Association also has information that can be found [here](#).

under the new law cannot open an office in Arizona unless they are part of a group that provides in-person care in the state and are appropriately licensed with the applicable licensing Board or agency. Any provider who fails to comply with the registration requirements is subject to investigation and discipline, including revoking telehealth practice privileges in Arizona.

A new Telehealth Advisory Committee was also created under the new law. This committee will be charged with the critical task of reviewing national and other standards for telehealth best practices. The committee may conduct public meetings, take testimony, and ultimately adopt guidelines and recommendations for the appropriate use of telehealth. Physicians represent the majority of members on the Telehealth Advisory Committee to effectively monitor the effect of the new law and suggest improvements or updates to policies when necessary. ArMA worked with the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) to recommend several physicians for this important Committee.

SB1377—Liability Protection Passed

On April 9, 2020, [Executive Order 2020-27](#) was issued



by Governor Ducey, protecting frontline healthcare workers responding to the pandemic from civil liability. [SB1377](#) codified those protections. The new law establishes civil immunity for employers and health care providers for actions (or lack of action) related to “a public health pandemic that is the subject of the state of emergency declared by the Governor.”

Specifically, healthcare professionals and institutions providing medical services are presumed to be acting in good faith if the person or provider adopted and implemented reasonable policies related to the public health pandemic. Civil liability could only be established if there was gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or willful misconduct.

ArMA helped draft the bill and touted it to legislators as a way to thank physicians and other healthcare workers who have served tirelessly and selflessly to treat patients during the pandemic. Physicians deserve added protection from frivolous claims. The bill does not prevent legitimate lawsuits or protect those who acted with negligence or ill intent. ArMA is grateful for the passage of the legislation.

Criminalizing Physician Care – HB2140 and SB1457

ArMA does not take a position on the question of abortion. However, there is well-established opposition to any legislation that would criminalize legal care. This issue figured prominently during the 2021 session.

[HB2140](#) outlawed abortion after a detectable heartbeat, making a physician subject to a Class 3 felony if they perform the procedure. ArMA mobilized

stakeholders and testified against the measure, and the bill was held in the Senate and never received a floor vote.

[SB1457](#), sponsored by Senate Health and Human Services Chair Nancy Barto, was another abortion bill, subjecting a physician to a felony if the woman is seeking an abortion solely because a fetus has a genetic abnormality. This bill did pass, despite ArMA's strong opposition and coordination with other physician organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), the Arizona Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AzACOG), the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians (AzAFP), the Arizona Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP), and the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA). To see some of the letters ArMA sent in opposition to SB1457, click [HERE](#).

As the bill made its way through the process, ArMA did manage to hold the bill a couple of times, thanks to legislative support. The first time was in the House of Representatives when Rep. Regina Cobb narrowed the bill with two amendments. Instead of a broad-scale prohibition against abortion in the event of a genetic abnormality, the amendment allowed for the procedure in cases where the abnormality is “incompatible with life.” The second amendment lowered the felony provisions from Class 3 to Class 6. Given that the legislation had the votes to pass unamended, ArMA greatly appreciates Rep. Cobb's strong leadership in forcing these changes.

In the Senate, certain passage of the bill was stopped

again by the objections of Senator Tyler Pace, and as a result the bill was further narrowed. "Personhood" language for fertilized embryos was limited to protect physicians who provide fertility services, and the "incompatible with life" language was replaced to instead add a definition for "lethal fetal condition." We applaud Sen. Pace's courageous efforts, but due to the felony provisions staying in the bill, ArMA's opposition was unchanged. It remained so as Governor Ducey signed the bill into law. We will continue to monitor this new law if it becomes subject to a legal challenge.

Public Health Concerns – HB2190

During the 2021 legislative session, ArMA faced several pandemic-related bills that we viewed as contrary to public health. For example, a strike everything

amendment to [HB2190](#) would

have, among other things,

prohibited physicians from applying appropriate vaccine requirements to protect their staff and patients. A physician who violated the statute could be charged with a felony and have their license revoked.

ArMA opposed the measure and worked with

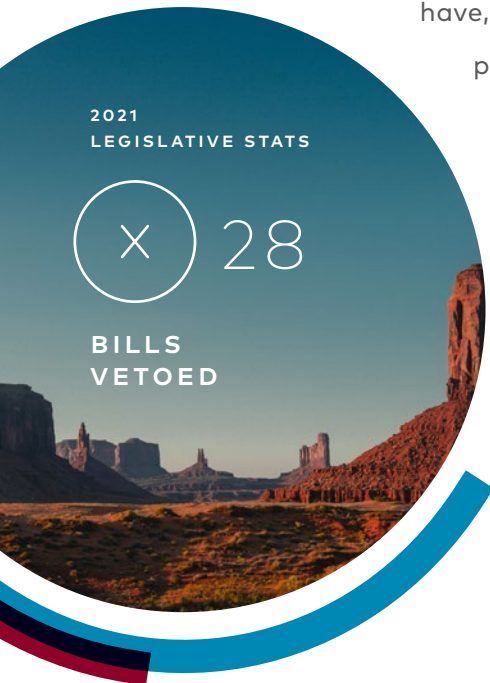
Senator Tyler Pace to amend the bill and exempt physicians from its restrictions. Fortunately, the bill was defeated in the Senate.

Crisis Standards of Care – SB1374 / HB2386

ArMA opposed [SB1374](#), sponsored by Senate Health and Human Services Chair Nancy Barto, which became a 'strike-everything' amendment to [HB2386](#), attempted to rewrite the triage standards developed by the Arizona Department of Health Services for healthcare resource allocation. In particular, under the measure, physicians "may only consider short-term survival" when making a resource allocation decision. Concerned that this tied the hands of physicians during a crisis, ArMA joined with the state's hospital associations in opposing the bill, but it passed in the final days of the session.

Scope increase – SB1300 / HB2845

[SB1300](#), which was held in the House, but later re-emerged as a strike everything amendment to [HB2845](#), required the Arizona Department of Health Services to change its current rule and allow not only a doctor but an "anesthesia provider" to handle physical discharge from an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC). ArMA, working closely with the Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists, argued that this change wasn't needed, lowered patient safety, and did not meet patient expectations that a physician remains on site until discharge. Nevertheless, [HB2845](#) passed and was signed by Governor Ducey. **ArMA remains committed to actively opposing all scope increases that harm patient care and safety.** We remain opti-



mistic that the legislature will develop a stronger appreciation for these fundamental concerns.

Medical Graduate Transitional Training Permits – SB1271

This new law was the result of substantial effort by both the ArMA advocacy team, as well as a select group of ArMA members who participated on a task force to negotiate its provisions. As originally introduced, [SB1271](#), sponsored by Senate Health and Human Services Chair Nancy Barto, created a new class of licensure for “Associate Physicians” who would be allowed to practice medicine despite not having completed residency training. Among other things, the licensees would be permitted to collaborate with a physician to dispense drugs and provide treatment “consistent with the skill, training, and competence” of the Associate Physician.

ArMA, following its longstanding policy of supporting Graduate Medical Education and funding to support it, strongly opposed the introduced version of the bill, and Senator Barto agreed to a series of stakeholder meetings to revise the legislation. Ultimately, instead of a new and permanent class of licensure, it was decided that qualifying medical school graduates would instead obtain a temporary transitional training permit. Among other restrictions, this permit would only be available for a maximum of three years. The permittee will be required to be under the documented and direct supervision of a physician. The Arizona Medical Board must be notified of the supervisory relationship. In keeping with the purpose of supporting GME, the permittee is also required to

apply for a GME slot to keep the permit.

As a result of the amendments made to SB1271, ArMA changed its position on the bill to neutral, and the bill passed. Understanding that the legislation was a priority for Senator Barto, ArMA was pleased to substantially narrow its provisions and provide for appropriate patient safeguards. As revised, ArMA hopes the training and supervisory requirements of the new law will allow medical graduates to work safely in physician-supervised patient care settings to keep their skills sharp. Hopefully, it will allow them a pathway to transition into medical residency positions.

2020 CARRYOVER BILLS

In addition to all the new business of the 2021 session, the 55th Legislature also had to pick up the bills from the 2020 session that did not make it across the finish line when the legislature adjourned early due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Three of these bills were ArMA priorities in 2020 and remained as such in 2021.

HB2621- Prior Authorization Reform Passed

[HB2621](#) is an ArMA-drafted piece of legislation that will help address the administrative burden for physicians and practices. Under this new law, sponsored by ArMA member Rep. Amish Shah, MD, the universe of prior authorization forms will be reduced to two—one for medications and medical equipment and one for procedures. Beginning January 1, 2023, all payors and all physicians will use these standard forms to

make prior authorization requests. ArMA was pleased to work with Rep. Shah and our colleagues in the health insurance industry to pass this critical reform and allow physicians to spend more time with patients instead of paperwork.

HB2622- Retaliation Protection for Healthcare Workers Passed

HB2622, also sponsored by physician legislator and ArMA champion Rep. Amish Shah, modernizes the statute that protects physicians and healthcare workers from retaliatory action by their employer if they report a patient safety issue. The existing statute only protected those who were employed by a hospital. This bill, passed nearly unanimously by the legislature, extends the same protections to any healthcare worker, regardless of whether they are employed by the hospital or a third-party contractor, like a practice group. This modernization reflects the current business of medicine, where more and more physicians are employed in a group setting rather than by the hospital itself.

SB1270- Step Therapy Reform Passed

The final ArMA priority that had to be carried over from 2020 was SB1270, another prior authorization reform measure related to step therapy protocols. The bill has a series of reforms, including establishing clinical review criteria for all step therapy requests based on peer-reviewed evidence rather than basing the requirements on cost. The bill also requires all health plans to respond to a step therapy request in 72 hours or 24 hours in the case of exigent circum-

stances. Finally, the bill protects patients from having to redo step therapy if they change insurance carriers. ArMA was pleased to partner with many other health care organizations in support of this important reform, including patient advocacy groups, the pharmaceutical industry, and other medical specialty societies.

GENERAL SUPPORT

In addition to the legislation ArMA took an active role in, there were bills in which the Legislative and Government Affairs Committee took a position of General Support. As per the Committee's guidelines, this indicates that ArMA approved of the policy or principle behind the bill, but the ArMA Advocacy team was not asked to actively lobby on the measure. This typically occurred because other groups were leading the efforts, or the legislation was not slated to be heard by a legislative committee. The bills on which ArMA took a position of General Support were:

- HB2118
(FURNISHING TOBACCO; MINORS; ENTERPRISE PENALTIES)
 - » Sponsored by Rep. Bolick
 - » This measure, which fell short of the necessary votes



in the Senate after passing the House almost unanimously, would have created a penalty structure to any person or business who gave or sold tobacco products to anyone not eligible to purchase them legally (anyone under 21 years of age).

- **HB2126**
(RURAL PROVIDERS; LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM)
 - » Sponsored by Rep. Osborne
 - » Signed into law, this measure makes a technical change that allows physicians participating in the Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (or the corollary Rural program) to be exempt from the sliding fee scale requirement if they work for an Indian Health Service facility or a facility that serves urban Indians.
- **HB2266**
(MEDICAL ASSISTANTS; TRAINING REQUIREMENTS)
 - » Sponsored by Rep. Grantham
 - » This bill, which was another carryover from 2020, allows physicians to train their own medical assistants as long as their program meets or exceeds the training requirements of the Arizona Medical Board (or other medical licensing Boards). It was signed into law.
- **HB2291**
(AHCCCS, PREGNANT WOMEN; DENTAL CARE)
 - » Sponsored by Rep. Osborne
 - » We have seen this bill for many years, and like in years past, it fell short of the finish line. The bill seeks to expand the dental benefit to pregnant women served by AHCCCS, the state's Medicaid program.
- **HB2298**
(MEDICAL MARIJUANA; RESEARCH; GRANTS)
 - » Sponsored by Rep. Payne
 - » This measure, another 2020 repeat, uses money from the Medical Marijuana Fund to fund clinical trials related to marijuana use for efficacy and safety. It passed in the final hours of the 2021 session.
- **SB1001**
(BREAST IMPLANT SURGERY; INFORMED CONSENT)
 - » Sponsored by Sen. Ugenti-Rita

- » Spearheaded by a group of patient advocates, the new law specifies a new informed consent checklist for breast implants, to be developed jointly by the Arizona Medical board and the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery with input from patients and physicians.

- **SB1011**
(MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH; ADVISORY COMMITTEE)
 - » Sponsored by Sen. Mesnard
 - » This new law creates a 21-member Maternal Mental Health Advisory Committee. The Committee will meet and provide a list of recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by the end of 2022.
- **SB1082**
(PHARMACISTS; DISPENSING AUTHORITY; HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES)
 - » Sponsored by Sen. Ugenti-Rita
 - » Another COVID casualty, this measure made it across the finish line on the second to last day of session. This new law allows pharmacists to dispense hormonal contraceptives over the counter pursuant to a standing order, similar to how naloxone is dispensed now. It also requires a visit with a PCP at least once every two years for pharmacists to continue dispensing.
- **SB1145**
(TELEMEDICINE; PHYSICIANS)
 - » Sponsored by Sen. Shope
 - » Although this bill passed the Senate unanimously, it did not move through the House because it wasn't needed due to the telehealth omnibus (HB2454). It would have permitted prescribing after a telehealth visit in certain circumstances.

GENERAL NON-SUPPORT

The Legislative and Government Affairs Committee took the position of General Non-Support on several measures. This category indicates that ArMA doesn't agree with the language or the intent of the bill, but

the ArMA Advocacy team was not asked to lobby on the bill actively. In many cases, ArMA worked to amend the language of the bill to make it less problematic if possible. The bills on which ArMA took a position of General Non-Support were:

- [HB2069](#)
(GENETIC TESTING; PRIVATE PROPERTY)
 - » Sponsored by Rep. Roberts
 - » After amendments from ArMA and other physician groups, this new law requires that direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies provide clear and complete information to customers on privacy policies.
- [SB1084](#)
(STATE OF EMERGENCY; AUTOMATIC TERMINATION)
 - » Sponsored by Sen. Ugenti-Rita
 - » This was one of many bills related to challenging the Governor’s authority to declare a state of emergency. This particular measure, which didn’t make it across the finish line, would have automatically terminated any Governor-declared state of emergency 90 days after declaration unless extended by the Legislature.

factors, including importance to ArMA membership, the likelihood of passage, and fiscal impacts before taking a position on a bill. Here are the bills introduced in 2021 that the ArMA advocacy team monitored:

- [HB2010](#)
(ADOPTION; HEALTH INFORMATION; UPDATE)
- [HB2017](#)
(APPROPRIATION; STEM; LEARNING; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)
- [HB2047](#)
(INSURANCE; OPTOMETRISTS; CONTRACTS; COVERED SERVICES)
- [HB2119/SB1075](#)
(HEALTH CARE INSURANCE; AMENDMENTS)
- [HB2155](#)
(EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH; APPROPRIATIONS)
- [HB2277](#)
(INSURANCE; STUDY; REINSURANCE PROGRAMS; APPROPRIATION)
- [HB2290/SB1141](#)
(HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS; ACCREDITATION; INSPECTIONS)
- [HB2292/SB1015](#)
(PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS; LICENSURE; BOARD)
- [HB2303](#)
(MARIJUANA; LABORATORIES; PROFICIENCY TESTING)
- [HB2311/SB1060](#)
(LABORATORY PROCEDURES; CHIROPRACTORS)
- [SB1013](#)
(DENTAL BOARD; LICENSES; CERTIFICATES; RENEWALS)
- [SB1014](#)
(AHCCCS; CHIROPRACTIC CARE; REPORT)
- [SB1016](#)
(PHYSICIANS; NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE)
- [SB1017](#)
(INFORMED CONSENT; PELVIC EXAMINATIONS)



NO ACTION MONITOR

ArMA takes a “monitor” position on many bills that do not warrant active advocacy for various reasons.

ArMA’s Legislative and Government Affairs Committee evaluates several

- [SB1029](#)
(PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD; HEARINGS)
- [SB1034](#)
(ASSISTED LIVING; REFERRALS)
- [SB1059](#)
(MENTAL DISORDERS; CONSIDERATIONS; INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT)
- [SB1078](#)
(MEDICAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM)
- [SB1085](#)
(NURSING-SUPPORTED GROUP HOMES; LICENSURE)
- [SB1087](#)
(PHARMACY BOARD; REGULATION; NONDISCIPLINARY ACTION)
- [SB1088](#)
(CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES; SCHEDULE DESIGNATION)
- [SB1089](#)
(BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS; UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE)
- [SB1090](#)
(OUTPATIENT TREATMENT CENTERS; BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)
- [SB1091](#)
(CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MONITORING PROGRAM; DELEGATES)
- [SB1093](#)
(DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; SPINA BIFIDA)
- [SB1094](#)
(AHCCCS; SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT)
- [SB1097](#)
(PUPILS; EXCUSED ABSENCES; MENTAL HEALTH)
- [SB1126](#)
(APPROPRIATION; BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEY)
- [SB1170](#)
(PHARMACY BOARD; RULEMAKING AUTHORITY)
- [SB1181](#)
(DOULAS; VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION)

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

The budget process is not usually particularly pleasant or easy to negotiate, but it was particularly hostile this year. Each year, the budget requires ten issue-specific bills (commonly referred to as BRBs) and the 'feed bill', meaning 11 bills must pass and be sent to the Governor to finalize the budget. This year, the budget package was packed with dozens of contentious policy issues. It's not uncommon for policy provisions to be included in budget bills. **The sheer volume of policy changes in this package is unprecedented, particularly given that many of the issues were the subject of heated debates and failed to pass earlier in the session.**

The Health Budget Reconciliation Bill (BRB), [SB1824](#), only included a few policy provisions and was not the subject of as much fighting as others, but they are worth noting. A summary of the numbers and the policies is below.

- A ban on cities and towns requiring COVID-19 vaccines or ordering mask mandates in the future, as well as enacting similar restrictions for schools and state colleges and universities
- \$6 million GME funding continued from FY 2021 – this is supposed to increase to \$9M in FY23
- \$2 million for medical student loan repayment
- \$500,000 to implement expanded newborn screening (in accordance with national standards)
- A limitation on the Governor's ability to issue emergency declarations, which Governor Ducey agreed to in order to get the votes necessary for his tax cut plan, including a cap on future declarations to no more than 120 days unless respective 30-day extensions are approved by the Legislature

ADVOCACY LEADERS AND PARTNERS

A successful legislative session requires the help of many individuals and organizations, both within and outside of ArMA, working together. For 2021, ArMA is pleased to recognize some of the critical support and leadership we received to benefit Arizona physicians and their patients.

Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee

The ArMA Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee consists of 30+ members who are appointed to the committee. The committee meets to review policy issues of concern to physicians, health care organizations, and patients; in particular, the committee is responsible for establishing the positions that ArMA takes on the approximately 250-300 healthcare-related bills introduced during the legislative session. In doing so, the Committee directs the

activities of the ArMA government relations team, and their leadership is essential for ArMA to fulfill its advocacy mission. **William Thompson, MD**, chairs the committee.

ArMA is incredibly grateful for the dedication, responsiveness, and time investment Dr. Thompson demonstrates in leading this important committee.



The members of the committee are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Robert Aaronson, MD</i> | <i>Jane Lyons, MD</i> |
| <i>Ilana Addis, MD</i> | <i>Aaron Mangold, MD</i> |
| <i>Gretchen Alexander, MD</i> | <i>Mr. Sachin Mishra</i> |
| <i>Miriam Anand, MD</i> | <i>Jeffrey Mueller, MD</i> |
| <i>Arash Araghi, DO</i> | <i>Pamela Murphy, MD</i> |
| <i>Sarah Coles, MD</i> | <i>Richard Neff, MD</i> |
| <i>Ricardo Correa, MD</i> | <i>Cheryl O'Malley, MD</i> |
| <i>Ralph Drost, MD</i> | <i>Rahul Pannala, MD</i> |
| <i>Claudine Egol, MD</i> | <i>Shak Rehman, MD</i> |
| <i>Gary Figge, MD</i> | <i>Mehrdad Saririan, MD</i> |
| <i>Ross Goldberg, MD</i> | <i>Shawn Sullivan, MD</i> |
| <i>Daniel Gridley, MD</i> | <i>John Trickett, MD</i> |
| <i>Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD</i> | <i>Ms. Ruchi Trivedi</i> |
| <i>David Horwitz, MD</i> | <i>Dennis Weiland, MD</i> |
| <i>Jason Jameson, MD</i> | <i>Susan Whitely, MD</i> |
| <i>Nadeem Kazi, MD</i> | |
| <i>Frederick Kogan, MD</i> | |
| <i>Marc Leib, MD</i> | |

Our thanks to Dr. Thompson and to all the members of L&G for their 2021 commitment and work in support of Arizona's House of Medicine.



Legislators

ArMA cannot do what we do without champions in the Arizona Legislature. Ultimately, these elected officials must introduce and carry legislation, fight against dangerous amendments, and vote on the myriad healthcare bills ArMA tracks and engages on. We are immensely grateful to the champions highlighted below for their partnership in protecting Arizona physicians and their patients.



Representative Regina Cobb

Representative Cobb, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Health and

Human Services Committee, has been

a House member since 2015. A dentist, she lives in Kingman, Arizona, and owns two dental practices there. She graduated with a DDS degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1993, and she and her husband Jim have two daughters.

As the prime sponsor of this year's comprehensive telehealth bill, Representative Cobb had the challenging task of leading negotiations on the legislation with various stakeholders. She also took a stand to weaken the provisions in SB1457, creating a Class 3 felony for physicians. A solid and consistent voice for Arizona physicians, ArMA is thankful for her outstanding leadership during the 2021 legislative session.

Representative Joanne Osborne



Representative Joanne Osborne was elected to the House of Representatives in 2018 and is the Chairman of the House Health and Human Services Committee. Additionally, Chairman Osborne serves as a Committee Member of Appropriations and Education, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, and member of JCCR and JLBC Committee. She also serves on the Abrazo West Hospital & Level 1 Trauma Board of Directors and Arizona's Workforce Development Task Force.

Before her legislative service, Chairman Osborne served on the Goodyear City Council for 11 years and was Vice Mayor from 2011 to 2013. In July of 2013, she attended and graduated from Harvard University's "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" program. Joanne and her husband Ken have been married for 34 years and have owned Osborne Jewelers for 30 years. They have four children. In her leadership role over the state's healthcare policy, ArMA deeply appreciates her willingness to hear Arizona physicians and their patients' concerns and shepherd essential reforms like the telehealth bill through her committee.

Representative Amish Shah



Representative Amish Shah, MD, MPH was born and raised in Chicago, Ill. He attended North-

western University in Evanston, Ill., and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Dr. Shah then graduated from Northwestern University Medical School as part of the Honors Program in Medical Education.

After graduation, Dr. Shah went to New York City, where he taught medical students and residents at the Mount Sinai Medical Center as a full-time faculty member and academic researcher. Upon coming to Arizona, Dr. Shah graduated from the University of Arizona's Sports Medicine Fellowship

and is currently board certified in Emergency Medicine and Sports Medicine and practices throughout Arizona, treating adults and children. He is also an active ArMA member.

Representative Shah was first elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2019. As a House Health and Human Services Committee member, he quickly became a leading voice in healthcare policy despite his lack of seniority. In 2021, Rep. Shah was a lead sponsor on prior authorization reform and legislation to provide nonretaliation protection to healthcare professionals who report safety concerns, both ArMA

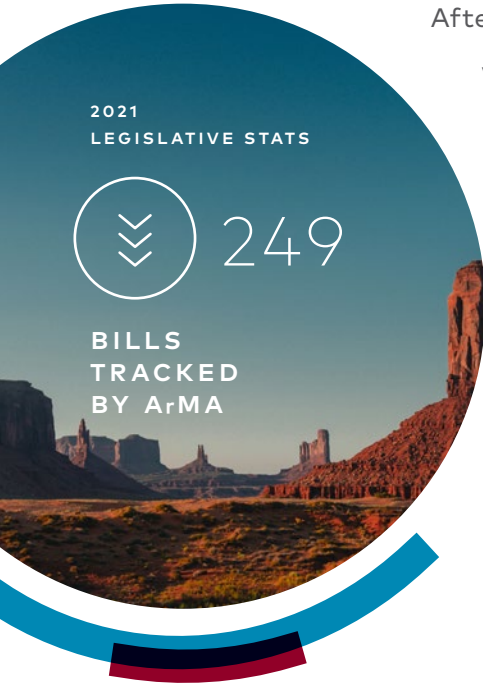
priority bills. We are grateful for Dr. Shah's tireless and effective advocacy on behalf of Arizona physicians and their patients and congratulate him on a successful 2021 legislative session.

Senator Tyler Pace

Senator Tyler Pace represents District 25 and serves as the Senate Health and Human Services Committee vice-chairman. He was elected to the office in November 2018.

He is a native 5th Generation Arizonan, born and raised in Mesa. After obtaining his BA from ASU, Tyler began his career as an entrepreneur, starting, acquiring, and merging several companies. He currently owns and operates several businesses, with a focus in the healthcare field, and employs more than 30 individuals. Senator Pace is married to his wife Jordann, and they have three young children.

During the 2021 session, Senator Pace was an intelligent and thoughtful voice on healthcare, always willing to listen to the concerns of Arizona physicians. His knowledge of the field serves him well in both his leadership capacity on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and other legislators. ArMA appreciates his service during the 2021 session and his continued leadership on healthcare issues. In particular, ArMA appreciates his stand for physicians and being among the very few who worked to lessen the onerous provisions of SB1457.





Senior Policy Advisor Christina Corieri

Christina Corieri serves as Governor Doug Ducey's Senior Policy Advisor. She is a member of the Governor's senior staff. Also, she advises on various policy areas, including healthcare at the state and national level, human services, insurance, and child safety.

Before joining Governor Ducey's staff, she held positions including healthcare policy analyst at the Goldwater Institute, Chief of Staff for Phoenix Councilman Sal DiCiccio, and Vice President of Government and Board Relations for a national nonprofit. She holds a JD from ASU and a BS in political science, and a BA in history.

Ms. Corieri's leadership and expertise on healthcare issues are widely regarded at the Capitol. During the 2021 session, she served as a driving force behind Governor Ducey's telehealth bill, among other initiatives. ArMA always appreciates her willingness to give Arizona physicians a seat at the table when essential healthcare issues are being discussed and her responsiveness and collaboration with ArMA. We strive to be a continued, credible resource to both her and Governor Ducey.

State & Federal Partners

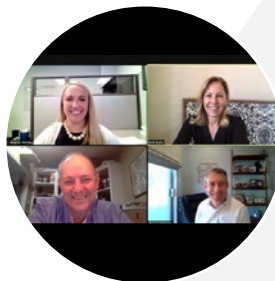
The American Medical Association



The American Medical Association, founded in 1847 and incorporated in 1897, is the largest association and lobby group of physicians—both MDs and DOs—and medical students in the United States. The AMA's stated mission is "to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health." From helping to pass a new public health law establishing needle exchange programs and fighting against legal physician care's criminalization, the AMA has been a valuable ally during the 2021 legislative session.

Doctor of the Day

ArMA's Doctor of the Day program is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for members to show policymakers the value of quality healthcare from a physician's perspective. ArMA members who participate meet with their legislators, tour the Arizona Capitol, and provide medical assistance should anyone in the legislature require it. The program began in 1975, and in 2021, the program responded to the pandemic by becoming completely virtual, providing valuable telehealth services.



During the 2021 session, 53 physicians participated, which included nine residents. Four medical students accompanied physicians, 17 legislative districts were represented, 21 specialties participated, and 86 legislative meetings

were scheduled with doctors and their legislators. ArMA is proud to provide this program and looks forward to returning to in-person care next year.

ArMA Ambassadors

This year, due to the virtual nature of the 2021 session, ArMA launched a brand-new program to help ensure legislators were hearing the perspective of Arizona's physicians since in-person meetings were not possible. Forty physician volunteers from ArMA's Board of Directors and Legislative and Government Affairs Committee were paired with Arizona Senators and Representatives and assigned to engage with them throughout the session on crucial legislation and be an expert resource on health care bills. Ambassadors connected with their assigned legislators through social media interactions, as well as targeted email outreach. Throughout the extended session, Ambassadors conducted outreach on nearly a dozen priority bills.

Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition



In 2020, ArMA and the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) partnered to create an essential new advocacy coalition to strengthen physician involvement in the policymaking process. The [Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition \(AHAC\)](#) has 11 founding societies, which represents the majority of physicians in Arizona. Representatives from each Society meet monthly during the session to review introduced legislation and share information with their respective members for

potential engagement. Weekly emails were also provided by AHAC staff which provided legislative updates, upcoming Health Committee agendas, and information on bills of note. Throughout the legislative session, over 240 bills relating to medicine, patient care, or health insurance were tracked for AHAC. The Coalition reviewed each bill for relevance and potential action. This year, the Coalition renewed its support for two 2020 carryover bills: HB2532 (prior authorization; uniform request form) and HB2529 (nonretaliation policies; health care institutions). In addition to those, AHAC also sent letters to the legislature in support of SB1377 (civil liability; public health pandemic) and HB2454 (telehealth; health care providers; requirements).

ArMPAC

The [Arizona Medical Political Action Committee \(ArMPAC\)](#) is a non-partisan PAC that



supports candidates for office who understand the challenges physicians face today. ArMPAC is led by a Board of Directors and is an essential part of ArMA's advocacy efforts – its mission is to make sure Arizona continues to be a place where all doctors thrive! Help ArMPAC succeed by contributing today.

Other Legislative Efforts

ArMA is undoubtedly the leading voice for Arizona physicians, but we are grateful to partner with other health care organizations and physician groups to advance common interests. This year, ArMA was proud to join the below efforts, which

amplified our own advocacy on important issues, ranging from patient safety to criminalizing legal care. ArMA was proud to partner with other physician groups on the below letters:

- [Letter to Senator Sinema on S.1024 Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act \(May 2021\)](#)
- [Letter to Senator Kelly on S.1024 Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act \(May 2021\)](#)
- [Joint Letter to Governor Ducey on Vetoing SB1457 \(April 2021\)](#)
- [Joint Letter to Governor Ducey on Vetoing SB1456 \(April 2021\)](#)
- [Joint Letter to Arizona Legislature Opposing Physician Criminalization \(April 2021\)](#)

The 2021 Legislative Session – ArMA Responds to the Challenge

ArMA members and staff faced the challenges posed by the 2021 session head-on and came through with excellent results. From ArMA's Legislative and Government Affairs Committee to the Health and Human Services Committees in both the House and Senate, as everything transitioned to virtual engagement, ArMA did not miss a beat. During the 2021 legislative session, priority legislation that remained unfinished from 2020 was passed. New legislation, including telehealth reform and liability protection measures, will benefit Arizona physicians well into the future. This could not have been done without the determination of ArMA members and the advocacy team. ArMA looks back on the 2021 session with pride and looks forward to the next legislative session with anticipation to do even more to protect and strengthen

the House of Medicine. As an ArMA member, if you haven't already – please join us in our mission!

ArMA fights every day to make sure that physicians' voices are heard. But protecting your practice and enduring the best possible health care for all Arizonans doesn't happen on its own. It requires commitment from every physician who understands that without a voice, physicians and their patients lose. Your ArMA membership is the most precise statement you can make that you support your profession.

As the largest physician-led organization in Arizona, ArMA has been the voice of Arizona physicians for over 129 years and an acknowledged leader in healthcare advocacy at the State Capitol. For our advocacy efforts to work, we need, first and foremost, the credibility and power that only comes from as many Arizona physicians as possible joined together as ArMA members. **There is strength in numbers.** By simply joining ArMA, you make a difference.

ArMA Advocacy Team



Jon Amores, Director of Government Relations

Jon Amores comes to ArMA with over 25 years of work in both the legislative and executive branches of government, in addition to extensive private sector experience. Jon has practiced law, managed and run successful businesses, and served as the Vice-President of Private Banking for JP Morgan Chase Bank. He is a seven-term member of the West Virginia House of Delegates. Among other leadership positions, he served for three terms as the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. He was then appointed to serve as Deputy Secretary and General Counsel of the WV Department of Commerce and later served as director of two state agencies, the WV Racing Commission and the WV Real Estate Division. As ArMA's Director of Government Relations, Jon is responsible for the overall management of ArMA's advocacy efforts and directs the activities of the advocacy team.



Meghan McCabe, Deputy Director of Government Relations

Meghan joined the ArMA team in 2019. A native Arizonan, Meghan graduated from Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Society. She earned her Juris Doctor degree at the University of Washington. Fol-

lowing law school, Meghan spent several years in Washington, DC, lobbying at a boutique government relations firm on behalf of universities and scientific societies. Following her time in the nation's capital, Meghan returned to her home state. She joined Arizona's largest government affairs firm, where she spent several years representing a wide array of clients before the state legislature and municipalities.

Steve Barclay, Barclay Legal, Lobbyist



Steve Barclay is a lawyer-lobbyist with his own law firm, BARCLAY LEGAL, PLC. He has spent his entire four-decade legal career practicing in the Phoenix area and is a native Arizonan. Steve first began lobbying in Arizona in the 1980s and has been actively engaged in that field ever since, making him one of Arizona's true veteran lobbyists. While many lawmakers have come and gone over the ensuing years, Steve has been a constant fixture in the legislative process in our state on behalf of many private sector interests. He is particularly well known for his policy work in the health care arena, where he represents the Arizona Medical Association, Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, and Mayo Clinic, and other interests.

Steve received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School, and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oral Roberts University. He and his wife Rebeca are residents of LD 28 in Phoenix.



*Ross F. Goldberg, MD,
Immediate Past President, ArMA*

Ross F. Goldberg, MD, FACS, served as ArMA President for the vast majority of the 2021 Legislative Session and, in his capacity as President, was called to respond to the many unique circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to his other leadership responsibilities, Dr. Goldberg testified before multiple Legislative Committees and led efforts to educate both the Arizona Legislature and the public about conducting business safely in the midst of the pandemic. Dr. Goldberg is a Board-Certified General Surgeon, Vice-Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Specialty Ambulatory Medical Director for Valleywise Health, and Associate Professor of Surgery at both the Creighton University School of Medicine and University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix. He obtained his MD from New York Medical College and completed his General Surgery Residency split between St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center – Manhattan and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. During his residency, he completed a surgical research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and also completed a post-residency fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery at Mayo Clinic – Florida.

Dr. Goldberg currently serves as an Alternate Delegate on the ArMA Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA). He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS); having previously been the first surgical resident to sit on their SurgeonsPAC Board of Directors, he is currently the

Chair of the ACS Health Policy Advisory Council, a member of both the ACS Health Policy & Advocacy Group and ACS Legislative Committee and is a member of the ACS Board of Governors. He is also the Chair of the Advocacy and Health Policy Committee for the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and a member of their Board of Governors. He is also a member of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, Association of Women Surgeons, American Hernia Society, Association for Surgical Education, American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, and the Maricopa County Medical Society.

The ArMA advocacy team thanks Dr. Goldberg for his support and leadership during the 2021 Legislative Session.



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