



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Medical Association Considers Arizona Ballot Measure

May 12, 2022 (PHOENIX) — The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) has been exploring a 2022 ballot measure to address fairness in payment practices from medical insurance companies. Arizona patients and their doctors deserve laws that demand honesty, transparency, and accountability from these companies.

As the process exists today, insurance companies have too much power to deny claims and withhold payments. This results in a complex and confusing medical billing process that is difficult for patients and physicians to navigate. Ultimately, insurance companies reap the benefits of this flawed system while patients and physicians face the consequences. ArMA firmly believes that Arizona deserves better, and we are driven to implement common-sense solutions that protect patients and their healthcare providers.

To this end, ArMA worked with our allies to draft ballot language, build a coalition that includes community leaders on both sides of the aisle, and secure funding to move forward with a ballot initiative. The proposed ballot language would ask voters to agree that:

- Oversight is needed of claims denials with penalties for payers for improper claim adjudication;
- Payers should be prohibited from investing disputed payments while the dispute resolution is ongoing, thereby removing the incentive to drag out negotiations and withhold legitimate payments;
- Arizona state law should codify the patient protections in the No Surprises Act;
- Payers should not operate hidden profit arrangements like charging “shared savings” fees on out of network claims; and
- Transparency in the role of insurance in healthcare costs and administrative burdens is needed.

Over the past few weeks, we have been approached by representatives from the local insurance industry who asked us to work together over the next year. They expressed a willingness to be collaborative in identifying solutions to these issues.

In the spirit of collaboration, ArMA has decided to postpone the ballot initiative and focus our efforts on working with the insurer community to address accurate and timely payment issues. We are hopeful

that these discussions will prove productive and fruitful. However, if a meaningful agreement is not reached, ArMA stands ready to pursue the reforms our community demands via the ballot.

“This issue is urgent, and ArMA will ensure it is addressed,” stated ArMA President Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD. “Leaders are expected to work together, find common ground, and deliver solutions to the challenges our community faces. ArMA is committed to fulfilling this leadership responsibility on behalf of patients and physicians, and we are working diligently to make this collaboration successful. As the largest organization representing Arizona physicians, we are dedicated to moving forward in a stepwise, strategic manner until we secure a viable solution.”

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About Arizona Medical Association

The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) is the largest organization in the state representing the interests of all physicians. Since 1892, ArMA has been advancing patient care and providing its members with leadership, advocacy, education, and community. For more information, visit www.AZmed.org and follow ArMA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).