



Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

THERE TO CARE: INVESTING IN A HEALTHY ARIZONA

2008 State Advocacy Agenda

- H Invest in Arizona's Healthcare Workforce** Support continuing state appropriations for Arizona's Partnership for Nursing Education beyond FY 2010, as well as opportunities to invest in hospital nurse mentoring and simulation laboratory programs. Continue to support funding for community colleges' and Northern Arizona University's expansion of allied health professions programs.
- H Address Physician Shortage** Support legislative and other efforts to increase Arizona's physician workforce, including primary care physicians and specialists willing to be available "on call" to treat patients in hospital emergency departments. These efforts include continued state support for the expansion of the University of Arizona College Of Medicine, as well as support for streamlining current physician licensure and credentialing processes. Oppose any effort to reduce funding for graduate medical education.
- H Protect AHCCCS Funding** Oppose efforts to cut funding for Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), KidsCare and KidsCare Parents eligibility, services and payment. Continue to work with the AHCCCS Administration to minimize disruption of eligibility resulting from recently enacted federal citizenship verification requirements.
- H Support AHCCCS Payment System Reforms** Support legislation to reform the AHCCCS payment system to ensure AHCCCS payments for inpatient and outpatient services are timely and cover a greater percentage of hospitals' costs. Support an AHCCCS payment system that protects Arizona's healthcare safety net and minimizes cost-shifting to commercial payors.
- H Support Timely AHCCCS Payment** Continue to work with the AHCCCS Administration and contracting health plans to ensure timely AHCCCS payment to all hospitals.
- H Support Efforts to Control Healthcare-Acquired Infections** Support legislation to establish a Quality and Patient Safety Advisory Council to advise the Arizona Department of Health Services on the development of a uniform statewide healthcare-acquired infections reporting system.
- H Improve Access to Healthcare Coverage for Uninsured Arizonans** Support legislation to extend healthcare coverage to Arizona's uninsured population. Efforts to expand AHCCCS coverage, including KidsCare, must be coupled with reforms to the AHCCCS payment system in order to preserve Arizona's healthcare safety net.

- H Oppose Taxpayer Bill of Rights Measures** Oppose legislative referendums to amend Arizona's constitution to limit growth in state spending to changes in population and inflation and/or lower Arizona's existing constitutional appropriation limit.
- H Protect Funding for Rural Hospitals** Protect state appropriations for Critical Access and Stable, Accessible, Viable and Efficient (SAVE) hospitals.
- H Ensure Adequate Workers' Compensation Medical Payment** Work with legislators and the business community to ensure any reforms to Arizona's workers' compensation medical payment system are appropriate. Oppose establishment of a hospital fee schedule or other system that would not pay hospitals adequately for caring for injured workers.
- H Support Adequate HealthCare Group Payment** Support continuing coverage for the population HealthCare Group serves. As the Legislature considers options for reforming HealthCare Group, AzHHA will work to ensure that hospitals have the ability to negotiate payment rates that reflect the cost of caring for these patients. Oppose any effort to continue the temporary HealthCare Group default payment rate for non-contracted hospitals beyond the scheduled August 1, 2008 sunset date.
- H Reform Arizona's Medical Liability System** Support multiple efforts to reform Arizona's medical liability system, including legislation to raise the burden of proof in medical liability cases related to care provided in hospital emergency departments. Support additional legislative and judicial efforts to reduce the number of lawsuits filed and the expense of resolving them.
- H Modernize Hospital "Umbrella" Licensure Statute** Pursue legislation to update the current statute governing the number of "satellite" facilities that may be licensed under the hospital's single group license.
- H Support Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap** Work with Arizona Health-e Connection and others to support the further development and implementation of electronic health information exchanges.