



Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition (AHAC), which collectively represents the majority of physicians in Arizona, I respectfully ask you to support SB1270 (insurance; prescription drugs; step therapy).

Step therapy protocols are becoming increasingly common across health insurance plans. **However, without proper guidelines the step therapy process can limit a health care provider’s ability to tailor care to an individual patient’s needs.** SB1270 puts common sense guardrails in place to protect patients who often suffer from chronic illness and it will clarify the process for physicians, all while still allowing health plans to control costs of prescription drugs. The bill reflects compromise on both sides and is the result of a lengthy, in-depth stakeholder process.

Among other things, SB1270 will ensure that step therapy protocols are based on widely accepted clinical guidelines so that medical expertise, not cost, dictates requirements. Additionally, the bill establishes an exceptions process for patients if mandating step therapy would create a significant barrier to compliance, worsen a comorbid condition, be contraindicated, or decrease the patient’s ability to function.

For patients living with serious or chronic illnesses, having step therapy prolong ineffective treatment and delay access to the right medicine may result in increased disease activity, loss of function, and possible irreversible progression of disability. SB1270 is a bill that seeks to provide needed relief to these most deserving individuals. On behalf of the collective members of AHAC, I urge you to consider their needs, and vote YES on SB1270. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marc Leib, M.D., J.D.  
Chairman, Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition





Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition (AHAC), which collectively represents the majority of physicians in Arizona, I am contacting you to express our organization’s support for HB2454 (telehealth; health care providers; requirements).

We appreciate the commitment of the Governor’s office to the fundamental understanding that, spurred by the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth is now an important part of healthcare delivery -- and physicians play an indispensable role in it. As you know, the telehealth bill has been a complex negotiation from the beginning, with numerous meetings between stakeholders and various amendments. In its present form, the bill has much to offer Arizona physicians and patients.

**Specifically, pay parity for video telehealth encounters, payment of audio-only encounters, and various guardrails to ensure that telehealth does not eliminate in-person care are all vitally important.** Additionally, the Advisory Committee created in the legislation is a meaningful way to make sure that the legislation operates as intended, monitor future developments, and continue effective reforms to improve telehealth quality and access for all Arizonans.

The members of AHAC represent a wide spectrum of physician specialties and experience. We all know that telehealth can be a bright part of the future of medicine if appropriately applied, and we believe that HB2454 furthers that promise. For this reason, we urge you to vote YES on the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marc Leib, M.D., J.D.  
Chairman, Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition





Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition (AHAC), which collectively represents the majority of physicians in Arizona, I am contacting you to express our organization’s support for SB1377 (civil liability; public health pandemic).

SB 1377, sponsored by Senator Vince Leach, gives Arizona lawmakers the chance to say “thank you” in a meaningful and lasting way to Arizona's many health care heroes. Our physicians, nurses, and other health professionals have served tirelessly and sacrificed so much to treat thousands of patients during this horrible COVID-19 pandemic. **These heroes, and the health care institutions that employ them, should have some added protection from second-guessing and lawsuits, for the care they provided under adverse conditions to the very best of their abilities.** SB 1377 provides that needed protection.

To be clear, the bill doesn't prevent legitimate claims, but it helps by setting a higher standard (clear and convincing evidence) for proving claims against licensed health professionals. We believe that Arizona's real-life health care heroes have earned and deserve this protection. We hope you agree and ask that you please show your support by voting YES on SB 1377.

Thank you,

Marc Leib, M.D., J.D.  
Chairman, Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition





Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition (AHAC), collectively representing the majority of physicians in Arizona, I am contacting you to express our strong opposition to SB1457 (abortion; unborn child; genetic abnormality).

In opposing SB1457, I want to be clear that AHAC takes no position on the question of abortion. Our members hold deeply felt views on both sides of the issue. **However, regardless of where you stand on the abortion issue, we hope you agree that imprisoning physicians is too extreme for Arizona.** That’s exactly what this bill would do.

SB1457 would turn physicians into felons for providing legal medical care. Public policy is not served by sending doctors to prison for caring for their patients. The result will be that patients will seek care from unlicensed providers, thereby risking their health.

Moreover, the bill would jeopardize the three medical residency programs for OB-GYNs in Arizona, which require abortion training as part of their accreditation. This would send Arizona-educated physicians out of state to get the training they need and eliminate federal funding of the graduate medical education (GME) slots for OB-GYN programs. This would negatively affect the state’s healthcare delivery system.

As contentious as the issue of abortion is, the thousands of Arizona physicians who are members of AHAC ask you to consider that criminalizing physicians – charging them with a felony – is not the appropriate way to address the situation. We urge you to please vote NO on SB1457 and show your support for Arizona physicians.

Sincerely,

Marc Leib, M.D., J.D.  
Chairman, Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition

