

Yes on Prop 35 – Protect Our Health Care

Talking Points: UPDATED AUGUST 21

Elevator Pitch

Prop 35 will help solve California's health care crisis. It will address our most urgent health care priorities by securing dedicated, ongoing funding to protect access to care – without raising taxes. Prop 35 provides support for 15 million vulnerable Californians on Medi-Cal and has strict accountability provisions that prevent the State from redirecting funds.

Main Talking Points

- ***California's Health Care System is in Crisis.***
 - Hospitals and health clinics are closing services in rural and urban communities across California. Emergency rooms are overcrowded. More than 40 California hospitals have stopped offering labor and delivery services. Patients wait months to see a doctor for important preventative care, and often cannot get an appointment for specialty care when needed.
 - The health care crisis is made worse because the state has redirected more than \$30 billion in health care funding over the last 15 years to non-health care purposes.
- ***Yes On Prop 35 Provides Dedicated Funding To Improve The Health care System For All Of Us – Without Raising Taxes.***
 - Prop 35 will address our most urgent health care priorities by securing dedicated, ongoing funding – without raising taxes on individuals – to protect and expand access to care from primary care and specialty care physicians, community health clinics, hospitals, emergency rooms, family planning and mental health providers.
 - Prop 35 extends an existing levy on health insurance companies that will otherwise expire in 2026.
 - And Prop 35 prevents the state from redirecting these funds for non-health care purposes. It also includes strict accountability provisions to ensure that the money is spent appropriately on health care.

Additional Supporting Messages

- ***Protect and Improve Care for all Patients.***
 - Prop 35 will address our health care crisis by protecting resources to provide and expand patient access to care at community health clinics, hospitals, emergency rooms, primary care, family planning, mental health providers and specialty care providers like oncologists, cardiologists and OB/GYNs.
- ***Dedicated, Accountable Funding to Improve Care.***
 - Prop 35 secures ongoing revenue by extending an *existing* levy on health insurance companies – without raising taxes– and dedicates these funds to protect and expand access to care for all Californians.

- Prop 35 permanently extends the existing levy on health insurance companies that will otherwise expire in 2026.
- **Improving Health Care Access for the Most Vulnerable.**
 - Nearly 15 million children, low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities rely on Medi-Cal for their health coverage.
 - But lack of adequate funding means Medi-Cal patients must wait months to see primary care doctors or cardiologists, oncologists, pediatric specialists, or orthopedists.
 - Prop 35 will ensure that the most vulnerable among us have equitable access to health care and get an appointment with a doctor or specialist when they need it.
- **Strict Accountability.**
 - Prop 35 makes sure money set aside for health care actually goes toward health care. It prevents the state from redirecting these funds for non-health care purposes.
 - It guarantees billions in health care dollars are spent as they were intended – on treating patients, capping administrative costs at 1%, and ensuring the remaining 99% is spent directly on expanding access to health care.
 - Lastly, the measure requires annual independent performance audits to ensure funds are spent effectively and as intended.
- **Massive Bipartisan Coalition.**
 - Prop 35 is supported by a large, bi-partisan coalition that includes nurses, health care workers, first responders, physicians, dentists, hospitals, Planned Parenthood, community health centers, social justice organizations and both the CA Democratic and Republican Parties because it will improve access to health care for ALL California patients.

What does Prop 35 fund?

Prop 35 dedicates funding for:

- Expanding access to preventative health care so patients don't have to rely on crowded ERs or urgent care clinics as their primary source of care
- Reducing wait times in emergency rooms
- Reducing emergency response times by funding more First Responders & paramedics
- Primary care
- Community health centers
- Specialty care like oncology, cardiology and OB/GYN
- Family planning, including Planned Parenthood health centers
- Expanded mental health treatment in clinic and hospital settings
- Workforce training programs to increase the number of doctors, nurses, and caregivers who treat patients.
- Services for Medi-Cal patients to expand access to hospitals, physicians, women's health and community clinics, and health centers.