

Dear Andy Biggs,

We, the undersigned physicians and healthcare professionals, write to oppose your plan to eliminate Medicaid and to warn Arizonans what your dangerous healthcare agenda would mean for patients and hospitals across our state.

In 2011, you [sponsored](#) SB1519 to terminate the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), and you [compared](#) the cost of coverage to “enslavement” and “bondage.” Your own Republican colleagues [described](#) the proposal as a bill to “abolish Medicaid.”

Healthcare leaders warned the consequences would be devastating. Then-AHCCCS Director Tom Betlach [argued](#) the plan would cripple Arizona’s healthcare system, while Republican State Senator Rich Crandall [warned](#) “there would not be a rural hospital open in the state of Arizona” by Christmas. You acknowledged hospitals would suffer but [dismissed](#) the consequences as “a bitter pill to swallow.”

And this was not an isolated position. You later [fought](#) Republican Governor Jan Brewer’s bipartisan Medicaid expansion, [blocked](#) the restoration of KidsCare coverage for children, and [repeatedly sought](#) to repeal the Affordable Care Act. More recently, you pushed for even deeper cuts as Congress debated the largest Medicaid cut in American history, [saying](#), “I agree with the more cut approach.”

For us, these are not just votes on a page. We see the consequences in our hospitals, clinics, and exam rooms. A hospital in Tucson and eight local health clinics [have closed](#), while eight rural hospitals [risk](#) permanent closure.

That is why we are sounding the alarm. As medical professionals, we believe your effort to eliminate Medicaid — threatening healthcare for nearly 1.8 million Arizonans — is disqualifying for someone seeking to be governor of Arizona. If you become governor, you would have enormous power over the very Medicaid program you once tried to eliminate. Your agenda would put patients, hospitals, and the health of every Arizonan at risk.

Sincerely,
Physicians and Medical Professionals of Arizona

Signed by:

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