# The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: 2024 Threats and Opportunities for Arizona Hospitals

Meghan McCabe Vice President, Policy and Advocacy February 6, 2024









### **2024 Policy Priorities**

- Stabilizing Hospital Finances
- Strengthening the Healthcare Workforce
- Addressing Unfair and Abusive Health Plan Practices
- AHCCCS Reimbursement and HEALTHII Payments

Read more at Policy Priorities - Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (azhha.org)



## **Today**







## THE GOOD

#### **Addressing Unfair and Abusive Health Plan Practices**

**HB 2035:** Equipping patients and their healthcare providers with the information and resources needed to deliver appropriate care.

Sponsored by Rep. David Cook (R-Dist.7)

- Improves Transparency (what happens when a claim gets denied)
- **Promotes Fairness** (more than 1/3 of Arizonans have been denied care by an insurance provider)
- Imparts Reasonableness (shortens timelines so patients will be able to access care faster)



## **Fixing Interfacility Transportation Delays**

**HB2290**: Meeting the needs of patients by reducing extreme delays in care when waiting for ground ambulance transportation. These delays in moving patients to receive the right care can be several hours but are often more than 24 hours long. Sponsored by Rep. Alex Kolodin (R-Dist. 3)

- **Exempt hospitals** from the Certificate of Necessity (CON) process for interfacility transportation.
- Allow hospitals to provide their own interfacility transportation if they'd like to do that, meeting all the same staffing, safety, and vehicle requirements as CON holders.
- Allow hospitals who cannot or do not wish to provide their own ambulance service to contract with local fire districts/departments to provide interfacility transportation.

#### Other Good Ideas...

- HB2113: Medical assistants; scope of practice (Rep. Willoughby)
- <u>HB2449</u>: Mental health conditions; medications; prohibitions (Rep. Montenegro)
  - SB1083: Mental illness; medication; authorization (Sen. Shope)
- HB2726: Utilization review; prior authorization; requirements (Rep. Willoughby)
- <u>SB1037</u>: AHCCCS; comprehensive dental care (Sen. Shope)
- SB1252: Health care directives registry (Sen. Shope)



# THE BAD, THE UGLY\*

#### Need some work...

- HB2111: Licensed facilities; transfer; sale; prohibition (Rep. Willoughby)
- <u>SB1407</u>: Employers; vaccines; religious exemption (Sen.Shamp)
- <u>SB1579</u>: parental rights; medical records (Sen. Wadsack)









### **THANK YOU**

2800 N. Central Ave., #1450 | Phoenix, AZ 85004