



ARMA
ARIZONA MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



2023

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The First Regular Session of Arizona's 56th State Legislature commenced on Monday, January 9, 2023. Quickly, it became evident that this year's session would be profoundly unique and, as it turns out, historic.

The session began, as is tradition, with Governor Katie Hobbs' inaugural State of the State Address, which highlighted her key priorities — education, water, and healthcare. For the first time in nearly two decades, Arizona's Republican-controlled legislature sent bills to the desk of a Democratic head-of-state, a dynamic that significantly shaped the session's outcome. This year's legislative arena was further defined by 42 freshman legislators who brought a wave of fresh perspectives to the Arizona State Capitol. Though there were remarkable



moments of bipartisanship, this year's session will be remembered for its divisive nature, which was clear from the beginning. This tension was carried throughout the session, which finally adjourned *sine die* on July 31, 2023, after a record-breaking 204 days and 143 vetoed bills.

Despite political dynamics and a slew of anti-science, anti-health bills, the Arizona Medical Association's (ArMA) advocacy efforts were stronger than ever before. Through the power of collaboration and diligence, ArMA proudly secured notable successes for the physician and healthcare community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
Advocacy Priorities	5
Arizona Medical Political Action Committee	7
Major Legislation	8
Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	21
Advocacy Programs & Collaborations	22
Advocacy Leaders & Partners	25

ArMA's Promise

ArMA is the physician community's advocate, ally, and resource;

We navigate the turbulence of healthcare so physicians can deliver the best possible patient care and rediscover the joy of medicine.

Together, we're driving change, boosting careers, and creating meaningful connections.

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AT A GLANCE

Session by the Numbers

204

DAYS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1675

BILLS INTRODUCED

205

BILLS CHAPERED

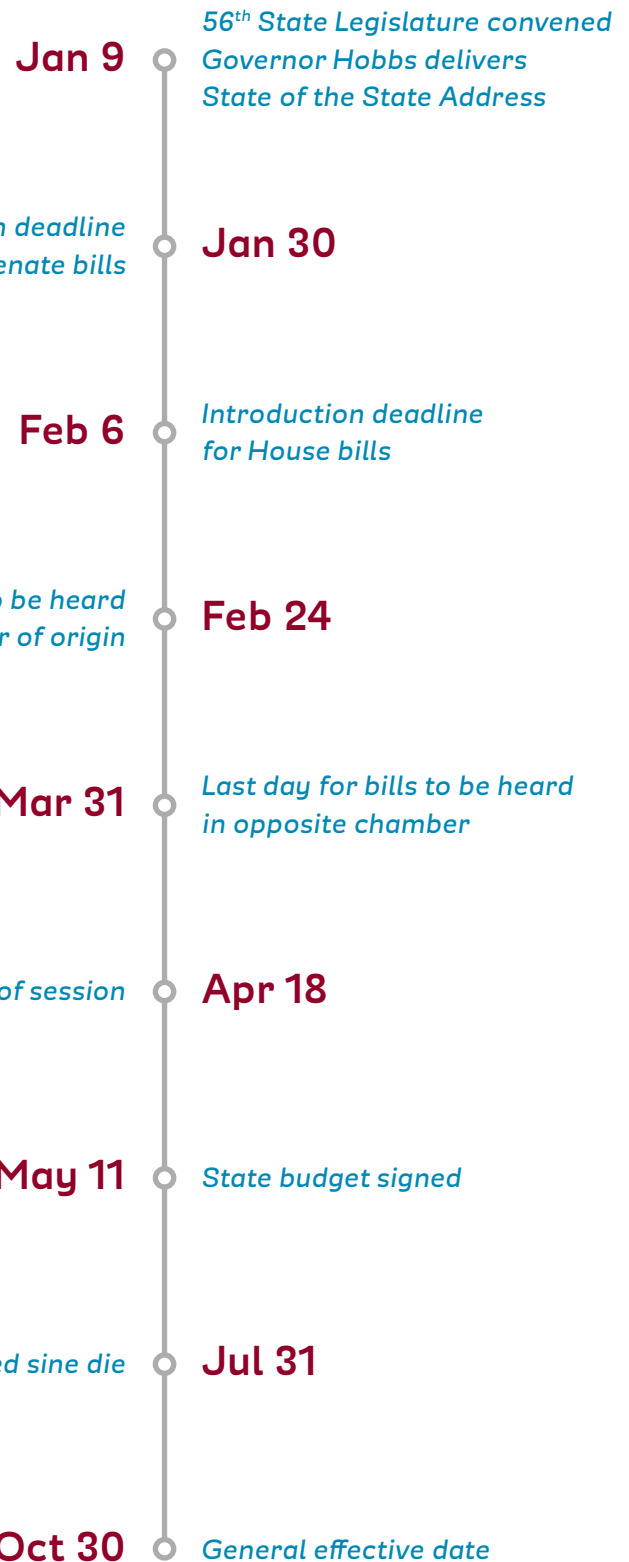
143

BILLS VETOED

250+

BILLS TRACKED BY ArMA

Session Timeline



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear ArMA members and healthcare stakeholders,

As we close the chapter on another Arizona State Legislative Session, I thank you for standing by the Arizona Medical Association, especially throughout what was a very challenging year.

Once again, the physician community was confronted with numerous threats to the practice of medicine and patient care. Through our united efforts, we took them in stride, but make no mistake: this year's legislative arena was one unlike many of us have ever witnessed.

While scope of practice expansion is always a pressing threat, this year saw an onslaught of scope bills, and ArMA dedicated a tremendous amount of effort to mitigating or eliminating their impact. In 2023, we successfully defeated legislation that sought to:

- Allow CRNAs to practice independently
- Repeal the Sunrise Report requirement for scope expansions
- Allow psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications

Our efforts against scope expansion culminated in a pivotal victory against a proposal to eliminate the Sunrise Review Process entirely. Due to the House of Medicine's efforts, a cornerstone process for vetting scope proposals will live to protect patient care for at least another year.

While an incredulous amount of anti-science, anti-health legislation kept us on the defense much of this year, ArMA went to great lengths to prioritize forward-thinking health policies. As always, the physician community informed and drove our offensive efforts, sharing the challenges that hinder them the most. Of the many roadblocks physicians face, one was overwhelmingly cited as a crushing issue: medical billing. So, we

embarked on a lofty but highly necessary effort to radically transform the medical billing process for physicians and patients, an effort we will continue in 2024.

ArMA and our fellow advocates also made headway on pressing healthcare issues that continue to impact patients, including:

- The healthcare workforce shortage, which ArMA continues to address through funding and collaborative efforts
- Access to maternal and women's care, including increased funding and access to the latest breast cancer screening technologies
- Advancing the conversation around unfair and burdensome health insurance practices that harm patients

There is still much work to be done to support our healthcare workforce and women's health, but I am proud of the ground we covered during this year's legislative session, and I look forward to building on our efforts in the years to come.

Though the 2023 Legislative Session posed many challenges, our success is resounding. After 131 years, ArMA remains the strongest voice for physicians and the patients they serve. Our success is, in no small part, thanks to our valued members and trusted stakeholders.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to ArMA's advocacy on Arizona's behalf. We truly couldn't do it without you. I hope you enjoy our 2023 Legislative Report.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Thompson'.

William C. Thompson IV, MD, FASA
President,
Arizona Medical Association



ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Physicians are uniquely positioned to be the most trustworthy advocates for public health, and ArMA is uniquely positioned to be the most effective advocate for physicians. By amplifying the physician voice at the Arizona State Capitol and beyond, we're making Arizona the best place to practice medicine and receive care.

ArMA's advocacy efforts are strategically aimed at accomplishing five key objectives:

1. Streamlining Administrative Burdens

The Issue: Physicians are facing mounting administrative burdens that interfere with patient care, including delayed or denied payments from commercial insurance companies and prior authorization roadblocks.

What ArMA is Doing: ArMA actively supports policies that remove administrative barriers, promote insurer transparency, and improve the prior authorization process. Our goal is to create a system that does not hinder patient care, interfere with the practice of medicine, or impede the doctor-patient relationship.

2. Improving Access to Care

The Issue: Low access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care threatens the health and well-being of Arizonans.

What ArMA is Doing: Planning, executing, and advocating for strategies to improve access to care for all residents.

3. Bolstering the Healthcare Workforce

The Issue: Arizona's graduate medical education (GME) programs have remained underfunded for many years, and patients are suffering the consequences as the state's physician shortage grows.

What ArMA is Doing: Advocating for increased GME funding in Arizona, particularly for high-demand specialties in rural and underserved communities.

4. Protecting Public Health

The Issue: Incredible achievements in the realm of public health have increased life expectancy, decreased mortality rates, and virtually eliminated many communicable diseases, but misinformation continues to be a pervasive and dangerous threat to our communities.

What ArMA is Doing: Working closely with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that Arizonans have access to science-based, clear, and reliable public health information on a wide range of issues, from childhood obesity and tobacco dangers to disease prevention and more.

5. Preservation of Physician-led Healthcare Teams

The Issue: Scope of practice expansions and licensing updates that are not accompanied by proper education and training are threats to patient care.

What ArMA is Doing: Preserving legislative safeguards for the consideration of scope of practice, licensing, and regulation changes for healthcare professionals to ensure Arizonans receive optimal care from qualified professionals.



ARIZONA MEDICAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



Hundreds of healthcare policies are proposed to legislators at the Arizona State Capitol every year. Some of these policies are sorely needed, many are misinformed and threatening, but they all impact patient care.

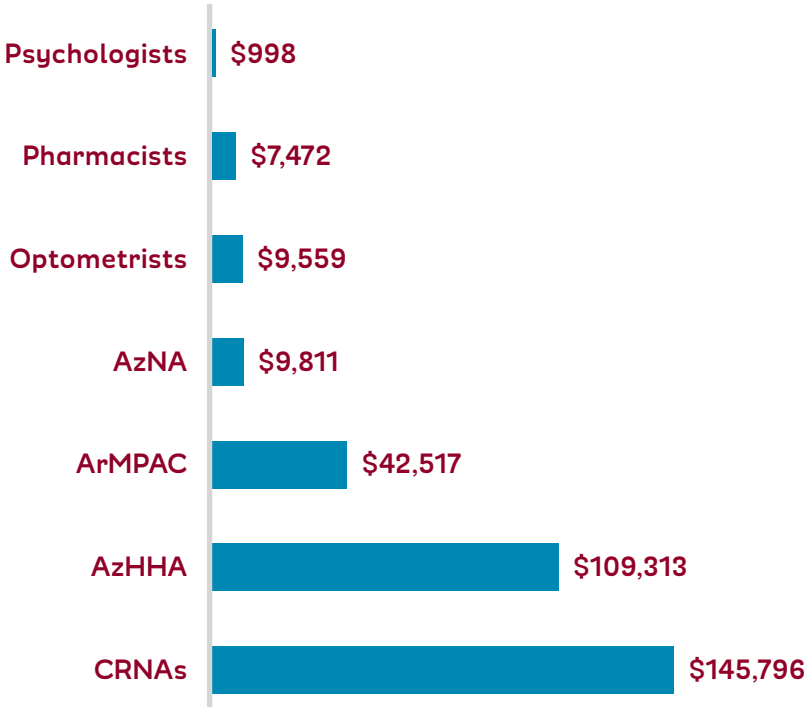
Protecting patient care takes more than sheer force; it takes productive relationships with legislators. That's exactly why the Arizona Medical Political Action Committee

(ArMPAC) exists. ArMPAC's mission is simple: support candidates who support physicians and their patients.

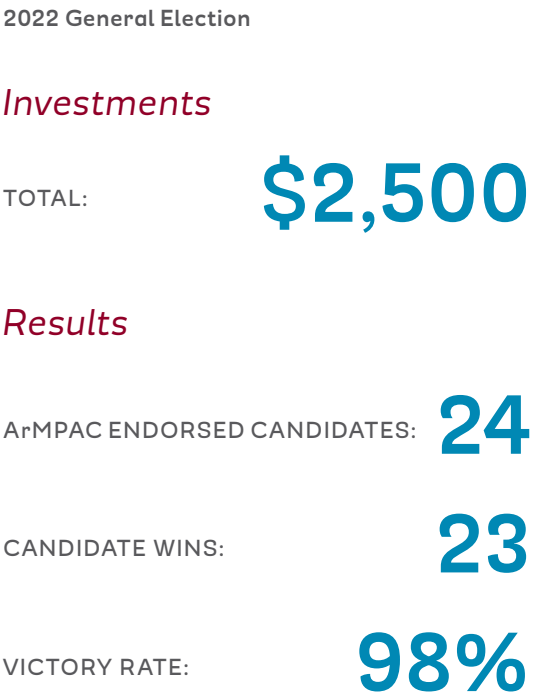
ArMPAC fulfills this mission through targeted, meaningful campaign support to physician-friendly candidates on both sides of the aisle. We are not a partisan PAC, and our endorsements are carefully vetted by physicians.

Powered by contributions from the physician community, ArMPAC builds a foundation on which ArMA's advocacy efforts can thrive. You can help us keep patient care in the hands of physicians by making a contribution today.

Cash Balances of Arizona Healthcare PACs:



ArMPAC Makes an Impact:



Support candidates that support physicians
by contributing to ArMPAC today: ArMPAC.org

Contributions may also be made by check, payable to 'ArMPAC,' and mailed to:

ArMPAC, 2401 W. Peoria Ave., Suite 315 | Phoenix, Arizona 85029

Paid for by Arizona Medical PAC. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.





MAJOR LEGISLATION

In 2023, ArMA's Advocacy Team tracked more than 250 bills, each seeking to alter healthcare in our state. Of the bills on ArMA's tracking list, several quickly became key priorities, either as harmful legislation to defeat or as beneficial measures to champion. To brief you on the most impactful healthcare legislation that moved through the Arizona State Capitol, we are pleased to provide the following summary of this year's legislative landscape. From urgent efforts to establish commercial insurance transparency and accountability to nuanced discussions surrounding scope of practice, our overview of major legislation is your cornerstone for understanding the evolving dynamics within Arizona's healthcare system.

Insurance Transparency and Accountability

HB2290 (*insurance; claims; appeals; provider credentialing*)

HB2290, sponsored by Representative David Cook, would have leveled the playing field by improving claims denial procedures while expediting the credentialing process. After a long battle with the insurance industry, HB2290 was ultimately held in the Senate Government Committee. ArMA will bring the bill back and continue to fight for fair payment practices for our physicians again in the next legislative session.

Position: Support **Status:** Ongoing

ArMA PRIORITY



HB2426 (*technical correction; prior authorization; timeliness*)

HB2426, sponsored by Representative Matt Gress, was an ArMA priority bill that would have established a pilot program to fast-track prior authorizations. The bill was inspired by a Texas gold card law that does not require prior authorizations if a physician achieves a 90% prior authorization approval rating for drugs or services, essentially giving physicians a "fast pass." HB2426 would have required insurance companies to develop their own version of a gold card program, largely designed how they wanted with a few key parameters. Although the bill did not receive a hearing in the House Regulatory Affairs Committee, several health insurance companies have started to voluntarily implement gold card programs to help physicians provide the care needed to their patients. ArMA is closely watching the development of these programs, cautiously optimistic they will provide relief to physicians and patients.

Position: Support **Status:** Ongoing

ArMA PRIORITY



SB1382 *(pharmacy benefit managers; certificate requirements)*

SB1382, sponsored by Senator Janae Shamp, requires pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to obtain licensing and details requirements for the certifications. SB1382 was signed into law by Governor Hobbs on April 18, 2023.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Signed into law**

SB1459 *(mental illness; medication; authorization)*

SB1459, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, would have exempted medications prescribed for a mental disorder from prior authorization requirements. The bill did not receive a hearing.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Ongoing**

HB2622 *(cost sharing; health coverage; report)*

HB2622, sponsored by Representative Laurin Hendrix, would have required that any legislative proposal on health insurance coverage must also include the potential costs to the insurer. The legislation was pushed by the insurance industry and intended to make it more difficult to pass legislation on payer practices, cost sharing, PBM reform, and the like. The bill never received a vote in the House.

Position: **Oppose** *Status:* **Stopped**



Scope of Practice

HB2529/SB1248 *(scope of practice; process; repeal)*

The Sunrise Review Process is an important tool used by legislators and the public to vet scope of practice expansions from healthcare professionals. Special interest groups tried to eliminate the Sunrise Review Process through HB2529 and SB1248. Although both bills made it out of the House and Senate, Governor Hobbs thankfully vetoed the bill on March 3, 2023. [In the veto letter](#), Hobbs emphasized the importance of the Sunrise Review Process and the essential protection it provides for the health and safety of Arizonans.

Position: Oppose **Status: Stopped**

ArMA PRIORITY



SB1227 *(state board of optometry)*

SB1227, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, would have removed the prohibition on optometrists performing surgeries and allowed the optometry board to determine surgeries they could perform. The bill never received a hearing.

Position: Oppose **Status: Stopped**

ArMA PRIORITY



SB1269 *(nurse anesthetists; clinical rotations; appropriation)*

SB1269, sponsored by Senator Janae Shamp, would have allowed CRNAs to practice independently from physicians. This legislation would have removed the requirement for a CRNA to be supervised by a physician, and it is a dangerous step in the wrong direction. The best way to ensure high-quality care and lower costs is to maintain physicians as the leaders of the healthcare team. The bill was ultimately held in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: Oppose **Status: Stopped**

ArMA PRIORITY



SB1457 *(psychologists; prescribing authority)*

SB1457, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, would have allowed psychologists to have prescribing authority if they met certain educational requirements. While access to mental health treatment is a top priority, ArMA believes that the education and training that were outlined in this bill were inadequate to protect public safety and prevent unintended consequences of drug interactions. SB1457 passed the Senate but never received a hearing in the House.

Position: Oppose **Status: Stopped**

ArMA PRIORITY



SB1460 *(pharmacists; independent testing; treatment; requirements)*

SB1460, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, would have allowed pharmacists to independently order tests and treat for the flu, a respiratory infection, or a condition related to an emerging or existing public health threat. The bill never received a committee hearing in the Senate.

Position: Oppose **Status: Stopped**

ArMA PRIORITY



HB2043 *(physician assistants; supervision; collaboration)*

HB2043, sponsored by Representative Selina Bliss, allows physician assistants (PAs) to practice under a collaboration agreement with their employer after successfully completing 8,000 hours of practice. After an extensive negotiation process with the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants, ArMA was able to move to a neutral position on the bill, as it allows PAs the flexibility they requested and maintains patient safety and physician oversight. HB2043 was signed by Governor Hobbs on April 17, 2023.

Position: Neutral **Status: Signed into law**

ArMA PRIORITY



HB2457 (*anesthesiologist assistants; licensure*)

HB2457, sponsored by Representative Beverly Pingerelli, would have allowed anesthesiologist assistants to practice in Arizona, benefiting patients by providing access to a qualified anesthesia care team and guaranteeing physician anesthesiologist involvement in their care. While the ArMA Advocacy Team helped get the bill out of the House with broad bipartisan support, the bill was never heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee due to the intense opposition and political pressure from the CRNA lobby.

Position: Support Status: Ongoing

SB1334 (*advanced practice nurses; compact*)

SB1334, sponsored by Senator Janae Shamp, would have established a compact for advanced practice registered nurses. The original language was concerning because it stated that the compact would supersede state laws regarding scope of practice and supervision. ArMA successfully negotiated the removal of the problematic language and moved to a neutral position. The bill failed in the House Third Read by a 30-28-1 vote.

Position: Neutral Status: Not passed

SB1602 (*dental anesthesia; requirements*)

SB1602, sponsored by Senator Janae Shamp, as introduced, attempted to circumvent the Anesthesia and Sedation Committee process with language that eliminated the critical permit process for qualified anesthesia providers that are not regulated by the Arizona Board of Dental Examiners. A compromise was found that restored the authority of the Anesthesia and Sedation Committee to review the administration of anesthesia and sedation by providers not regulated by the Dental Board and ensured the protection of physicians in the process. The bill was signed into law on June 20, 2023.

Position: Neutral Status: Signed into law



Regulatory and Legal

HB2339 *(prisoners; medical records; family access)*

SB2339, sponsored by Representative Amish Shah, authorizes the Department of Corrections to release the medical records of an inmate to an immediate family member or designated individual. It was signed into law on April 17, 2023.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Signed into law**

HB2432 *(supplemental appropriation; AHCCCS; adjustments)*

HB2432, sponsored by Representative David Livingston, gives the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) the much-needed legislative authority to spend federal dollars to make timely payments to various healthcare professionals, including individual physician practices. Delayed expenditure authority could have created challenges downstream for physician practices and resulted in instability for Arizona's business community and private partners. Thankfully, the legislature passed HB2432 with broad bipartisan support, and Governor Hobbs signed the bill on May 5, 2023.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Signed into law**

HB2826 *(health boards; AHCCCS; continuation)*

HB2826, sponsored by Representative David Livingston, allows AHCCCS to continue operations for another six years.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Signed into law**

HB2467/SB1249 (*international medical graduates; licensure*)

Back for a second year, HB2467/SB1269, sponsored by Health Committee Chairs Representative TJ Shope and Senator Steve Montenegro, was a misguided attempt to address Arizona's physician shortage by allowing international medical graduates to bypass the required exams, certification, and post-graduate training to practice medicine in Arizona. While the House version of the bill was held in the House Health and Human Services Committee, the Senate version made its way to the House, where it ultimately failed in the House Health Committee by a 4-5 vote. There were multiple attempts at strike-everything amendments, but all were stopped by ArMA's Advocacy Team.

Position: Oppose **Status:** Stopped

ArMA PRIORITY



HB2157 (*medical malpractice; statute of limitations*)

HB2157, sponsored by Representative Lupe Diaz, would have extended the statute of limitation for a medical malpractice cause of action from two years to five years. The bill never received a hearing in the House committees.

Position: Oppose **Status:** Stopped

HB2468 (*unprofessional conduct; health professionals*)

HB2468, sponsored by Representative Steve Montenegro, includes failing to provide adequate informed patient consent for any treatment provided to a patient to the definition of unprofessional conduct. The bill never received a hearing in the House committees.

Position: Oppose **Status:** Stopped

HB2476 (*health care institutions; provider; liability*)

HB2476, sponsored by Representative Steve Montenegro, makes healthcare professionals and institutions liable for injury or death in support of the state's response to the state of emergency. The bill never received a hearing in the House committees.

Position: Oppose **Status:** Stopped

SB1694 (*public monies; ideology training; prohibition*)

SB1694, sponsored by Senator Jake Hoffman, would have prohibited a public entity from spending public dollars on diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. ArMA had significant concerns that the bill would have negative impacts on medical education. The bill passed the Senate but never received a hearing in the Senate.

Position: Oppose **Status:** Stopped

SB1366 (*physicians; pregnant women; intervention*)

SB1366, sponsored by Senator Wendy Rogers, would have required all physicians, PAs, and nurses who are seeing a pregnant person regarding their pregnancy to read the script that is currently mandated to be read 24 hours prior to obtaining an abortion at every encounter. This bill never received a hearing in the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: Oppose **Status:** Stopped

SB1600 (*infants; born alive; requirements*)

SB1600, sponsored by Representative Janae Shamp, would have required any infant born alive to be given all reasonable and medically appropriate interventions to save their life and carries a class 6 felony for violations. Though the intent is to prevent suffering and loss of life for infants born under tragic circumstances, the lack of clarity in the definitions would have resulted in defensive medicine and the implementation of futile interventions. SB1600 was vetoed by Governor Hobbs on April 6, 2023.

Position: Oppose **Status:** Stopped





Budget

HB2753 *(graduate medical education; residency programs)*

HB2753, sponsored by Representative Michele Pena, provides funding and resources to qualifying community health centers and rural health clinics that run primary care residency programs. This bill will combat the physician shortage in Arizona by securing more residency slots and ensuring that patients in underserved communities have better access to healthcare. The state budget included \$5 million dollars for primary care residencies in community health centers, rural health clinics, and tribal health facilities.

Position: Support **Status: Signed into law**

ArMA PRIORITY



SB1018 *(mental health coverage; collaborative care)*

SB1018, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, establishes a Collaborative Care grant program administered by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to aid primary care physicians in providing services through the collaborative care model. SB1018 was included in the budget, which provided \$1 million for collaborative care grants.

Position: Support **Status: Signed into law**

ArMA PRIORITY



HB2342 (AHCCCS; *infant male circumcision*)

HB2342, sponsored by Representative Amish Shah, allows AHCCCS to cover newborn male circumcision without prior authorization for the service. Unfortunately, the bill never received a hearing in the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Ongoing**

HB2338 (AHCCCS; *preventative dental*)

HB2338, sponsored by Representative Amish Shah, would have required AHCCCS to provide coverage for preventative dental services for adults. Due to budget constraints, it was not included in the state's 2024 budget.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Ongoing**

SB1016 (AHCCCS; *speech therapy*)

SB1016, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, would have required AHCCCS to cover speech therapy services for adults. Due to budget constraints, it was not included in the state's 2024 budget.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Ongoing**

SB1017 (AHCCCS; *cochlear implants*)

Sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, SB1017 would have required AHCCCS to cover cochlear implants for adults. Due to budget constraints, it was not included in the state's 2024 budget.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Ongoing**

SB1220 *(Alzheimer's disease state plan; appropriation)*

SB1220, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, requires the ADHS to develop an Alzheimer's Disease State Plan to address the growing needs of patients and their family caregivers. The bill's language was included in the state budget, which was signed by Governor Hobbs on May 11, 2023.

Position: Support **Status:** Signed into law

SB1701 *(type one diabetes; devices; drugs)*

SB1701, sponsored by Senator Justine Wadsack, would have required AHCCCS to create a diabetes treatment program without any cost-sharing requirements that would provide essential devices and drugs for type one diabetics under the age of 24. The bill did not receive a hearing.

Position: Support **Status:** Ongoing





Public Health

SB1601 *(breast examinations; cancer screenings; age)*

SB1601, sponsored by Senator Janae Shamp, updated Arizona’s archaic breast mammography statutes to reflect evidence-based best practices for breast cancer screening and require insurance plans to cover tomosynthesis. With the work of ArMA’s Advocacy Team and the organization’s physicians, the bill passed out of the House and Senate with broad bipartisan support and received Governor Hobbs’s signature on May 8, 2023.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Signed into law**



HB2564 *(hospitals; physicians; dispensing opioids)*

HB2564, sponsored by Representative Amish Shah, allows for the dispensing of a 12-hour supply of an opioid to a patient discharged with an acute illness or injury if they are not within 50 miles of a 24-hour pharmacy. It was signed into law on April 12, 2023.

Position: **Support** *Status:* **Signed into law**

HB2474 *(school immunizations; exclusions)*

HB2474, sponsored by Representative Steve Montenegro, would have made immunizations with a U.S. Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorization not required for school attendance. The bill was vetoed on April 18, 2023.

Position: **Oppose** *Status:* **Stopped**

HB2630 *(tobacco; alternative nicotine; vapor products)*

HB2630, sponsored by Representative Kevin Payne, would have established that tobacco retailers must register with the Arizona Department of Revenue and increased the age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21. The legislation was problematic because it omitted an enforcement mechanism, preempted local jurisdictions from implementing their own regulations, and included definitions for tobacco that conflict with current, established public health standards. The bill did not receive a hearing.

Position: Oppose Status: Stopped

SB1414 *(self-donation; blood; patient notification)*

SB1414, sponsored by Senator Justine Wadsack, would have required a physician to notify a patient that they may donate blood for their own future use and required the physician to coordinate the donation if they choose. The bill never received a hearing.

Position: Oppose Status: Stopped

SB1424 *(vaccines; masks; requirements; prohibition)*

SB1424, sponsored by Senator Justine Wadsack, would have prohibited a business in Arizona from requiring masks or COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of employment, except as required by federal law. The bill never received a hearing.

Position: Oppose Status: Stopped

SB1433 *(employer liability; COVID-19 vaccine requirement)*

SB1433, sponsored by Senator Justine Wadsack, would have specified that if an employer denies a religious exemption and requires an employee to receive a COVID-19 vaccines as a condition of employment, they are liable for damages resulting from a significant injury caused by the vaccine. The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee but did not move any further.

Position: Oppose Status: Stopped

FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET

This year, the House and Senate approved a budget package totaling \$17.8 billion that was signed by Governor Katie Hobbs on May 11, 2023. Strong bipartisan support for extensive funding increases came from 25 senators and 47 representatives. The budget package increases K-12 funding, establishes new transportation projects, increases funding for housing, and more. A summary of health-related items funded is listed below:

- **Increases the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) maximum allowable income member eligibility percentage from 200% to 225% of the federal poverty level**
- **Provides \$1 million for Collaborative Care Model grants**
- Allocates \$7.5 million over three years for on-call OBGYN services in low-volume delivery areas and rural communities
- Distributes \$500,000 for Alzheimer’s research, state plan, and community outreach
- **Funds primary care residencies in community health centers, rural health clinics, and tribal health facilities**
- Provides \$150 million for the Housing Trust Fund, which will be used to build affordable housing and fund homeless shelters and eviction prevention programs
- Provides \$60 million for services for individuals experiencing homelessness

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AND COLLABORATIONS

Doctor of the Day

ArMA's Doctor of the Day program is an exclusive opportunity for our members to show policymakers the value of quality healthcare from a physician's perspective. ArMA members participating in the program meet with legislators, tour the Arizona State Capitol, and provide medical assistance as needed at the legislature. The program began in 1975, and it continues to be a long-standing tradition in the state legislature.

The Doctor of the Day program once again returned to the Arizona State Capitol for the 2023 Legislative Session. In total, 55 members participated in the program, representing 17 specialties and 17 legislative districts. Additionally, eight medical students and three pre-med students shadowed ArMA's physicians at the capitol. ArMA's physicians continue to maintain a strong presence at the Arizona State Capitol, and the Doctor of the Day program will be back in 2024.



Addressing Arizona's Healthcare Workforce Shortage

For more than 20 years, Arizona's healthcare system has suffered from an ongoing shortage of health care personnel. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this shortage, and it is, in turn, having a negative impact on patient care. The healthcare community agrees: the workforce shortage is a major concern that must be addressed. ArMA is committed to addressing Arizona's dire healthcare workforce shortage through a myriad of collaborative efforts.

Healthy Arizona Workforce Coalition

ArMA received a grant from the ADHS to bring together a coalition of healthcare stakeholders to collectively address the workforce challenges and vet possible strategies that will positively impact the healthcare workforce in Arizona. The Healthy Arizona Workforce Coalition (HAWC) includes stakeholders from every major area of healthcare as well as representatives from the broader Arizona community with a vested interest in workforce issues. HAWC's objective is to

define tangible short-, mid-, and long-term strategies to address Arizona's workforce needs. During every step of this process, the coalition is committed to focusing on diversity, health equity, and inclusion.

Preceptorship Grant Program

In 2022, in an effort to address some of the healthcare workforce shortages in Arizona, legislation was passed to establish the Preceptorship Grant Program. This program appropriated state general funds to support the preceptorship of graduate medical students; this funding was distributed among the five largest statewide nonprofit organizations that represent allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, and dentists.

ArMA is proud to be an administrator of the Preceptorship Grant Program, which aims to recognize the valuable contributions of preceptors. Our goal is to encourage and support more preceptorships for the training and development of graduate students, which furthers our mission to address the healthcare workforce shortage.



Healthcare Workforce Day at the Capitol

On Wednesday, February 16, 2023, ArMA partnered with nurses, hospitals, and health plans to host a very well-attended outdoor luncheon for legislators and legislative staff. The goal of our Healthcare Workforce Day at the Capitol was to bring attention to the dire health care professional shortages our state is facing. The healthcare community was able to come together and successfully push forward a landmark investment in the state's workforce, totaling \$42 million per year for the next three years.



Legislative Ambassador Program

In 2021, ArMA began the Legislative Ambassador Program to address the gap in the healthcare policymaking process that was widened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Legislative Ambassador Program allows Arizona physicians to connect directly with legislators and form a relationship to provide reliable, science-based healthcare and public health policy information.

Physicians who participate in the program may brief their assigned legislators on crucial healthcare issues being debated at the Arizona State Capitol by regularly communicating via email, phone, or social media to offer their perspectives and assistance throughout the legislative session. The Ambassador Program is an opportunity to build meaningful connections that serve both lawmakers and physician participants.

Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition

Established in 2019, the Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition (AHAC) is comprised of various physician-led medical societies representing state, county, and specialty organizations. AHAC is a collaborative effort to ensure the Arizona medical community is speaking with one voice in the policymaking process. It provides a forum for collaboration with and between key healthcare stakeholders to advance the health of all Arizonans, mobilize participation when needed, and serve as a community network in the sharing of information.

The 2023 AHAC members include the Arizona Medical Association, Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – Arizona Chapter, American College of Physicians – Arizona Chapter, Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists, Pima County Medical Society, Arizona Ophthalmological Society, Arizona Radiological Society, Arizona Allergy and Asthma Society, Arizona Psychiatric Society, Arizona Urological Society, and Arizona Dermatology and Dermatological Surgery Society.

ADVOCACY LEADERS AND PARTNERS

Victories claimed at the Arizona State Legislature are never the doing of just one person. ArMA's advocacy efforts are supported by many, and we are pleased to recognize the leadership of our Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee and the many ArMA members who stood up for good health policy.

Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee

ArMA's Legislative & Governmental Affairs (L&G) Committee consists of approximately 35 members who represent the diverse nature of our physician community. The committee examines issues of concern to physicians, healthcare organizations, and patients that are under consideration by state or federal agencies, licensing boards, the state legislature, or Congress. The committee is then responsible for establishing the positions that ArMA takes in negotiating or advocating on those issues. It is common for the L&G Committee to review between 250 and 350 pieces of legislation each year, in addition to reviewing other rules and regulations affecting the field of medicine.

Ross Goldberg, MD, chaired the 2022-2023 L&G Committee, ArMA is incredibly thankful for his excellent leadership and responsiveness in this role. We extend our most sincere gratitude to Dr. Goldberg and the entire committee for the fierce dedication to supporting Arizona's House of Medicine.

The members of the 2022-23 L&G Committee include:

Mr. Jonathan Abdo
Ilana Addis, MD
Gretchen Alexander, MD
Miriam Anand, MD
Arash Araghi, DO
Ricardo Correa, MD
Arthur DeLuigi, DO
Ralph Drosten, MD
Claudine Egol, MD
Gary Figge, MD
Katherine Glaser, MD
Ross Goldberg, MD
Timothy Graham, MD
Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD
David Horwitz, MD
Jason Jameson, MD
Nadeem Kazi, MD
Frederick Kogan, MD
Marc Leib, MD
Jane Lyons, MD
Brianna Manes, MD
Robert Orford, MD
Rahul Pannala, MD
Ann Peer, MD
Shakaib Rehman, MD
Mehrdad Saririan, MD
Ms. Huda Sardar
Heidi Tavel, MD
William Thompson, MD
Susan Whitely, MD

ArMA Advocacy Team

Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD, Immediate Past President, ArMA

Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD, FAAFP, is a Mayo Clinic-trained family medicine physician, an alum of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix (UA COM-P), and an award-winning medical educator. Dr. Hartmark-Hill served as president of ArMA during the 2023 Legislative Session, and she currently serves as the immediate past president on ArMA's Board of Directors. In addition to her involvement in ArMA, she is a member of more than 11 professional associations, including the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians, Arizona Women in Healthcare, and the Arizona Public Health Association.

The ArMA Advocacy Team extends many thanks to Dr. Hartmark-Hill for her support and leadership during the 2023 legislative session.

William C. Thompson IV, MD, FASA, President, ArMA

William C. Thompson IV, MD, FASA, is a board-certified pain medicine specialist serving patients in the East Valley. Dr. Thompson served as president during the latter half of the 2023 Legislative Session and, prior to assuming office as president, served as Chair of ArMA's L&G Committee. In addition to his involvement in ArMA, Dr. Thompson is a member of multiple professional medical societies, including the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine.

The ArMA Advocacy Team extends many thanks to Dr. Thompson for his support and leadership during the 2023 legislative session.

Libby McDannell, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

In her role as chief executive officer, Libby oversees all association activities and the ArMA staff. As CEO, her responsibilities include strategic leadership, executive management, partnership cultivation, and advancing ArMA's advocacy agenda. Her career in executive management has been marked by years of leadership, service, and achievement.

Amanda Sheinson, Director of Government Relations

Amanda is an accomplished government relations professional with 13 years of experience in Arizona politics. She is responsible for leading ArMA's advocacy team in representing the interests of its physician members. Utilizing members' input, she steers the organization's advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels of the government.

Christina Corieri, Consilium Consulting, Lobbyist

Christina Corieri brings years of experience in state and federal policy with a focus on health and human services to the ArMA team. She provides excellent guidance regarding many of ArMA's top priorities, including insurance reform, workforce, and legal and regulatory issues.

Thank you for reading ArMA's 2023 Legislative Report. As the physician community's devoted advocate, we appreciate your support.



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