



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Quang Nguyen (R-1)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yavapai Lawmakers Urge Yavapai Regional Medical Center to Reconsider Decision to Drop Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – In a letter sent Monday to Dr. Anthony Torres, President and CEO of Dignity Health, state lawmakers for Yavapai County urged Yavapai Regional Medical Center (YRMC) to reconsider its decision to end “in-network” services with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ).

District 1 State Representatives Quang Nguyen and Selina Bliss, and Senator Ken Bennett, expressed concern with YRMC’s decision, explaining that patients who are currently insured with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona will be forced to pay higher “out-of-network” rates to continue accessing services with YRMC or to switch doctors and travel long distances to obtain affordable care options, all creating a significant hardship for thousands of county residents, especially those who are elderly.

A copy of the lawmakers’ letter is attached.

Quang Nguyen is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 1 in Yavapai County and is Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Follow him on Twitter at @QuangNguyenAZ.

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DISTRICT 1

Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

January 30, 2023

Anthony Torres, MD
President and CEO
Yavapai Regional Medical Center
1003 Willow Creek Road
Prescott, AZ 86301

Dear Dr. Torres,

Thank you and Yavapai Regional Medical Center (YRMC) for providing excellent health care services for Yavapai County. Today, we, the members of Legislative District 1, are united writing to express our serious concern with YRMC's troubling decision to end its contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ). We urge you to find a way to continue this critical contract for the thousands of residents of Yavapai County who rely on it.

YRMC's choice to go out-of-network with BCBSAZ creates a significant hardship for patients in Yavapai County, especially the elderly, who will be forced to travel to Phoenix to receive the health care they need.

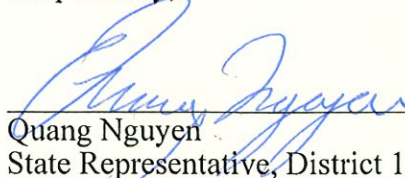
You mentioned to us many weeks ago that your decision to terminate the contract is based on reimbursement rates. While we support YRMC and its right to be being fairly compensated for providing health care services, we know that your facility is already one of the most expensive in the state. YRMC is the only hospital in the region and Yavapai County residents simply do not have another choice for their health care. We believe this decision will be viewed by many as taking unfair advantage of the situation and of your patients who will not have any option.

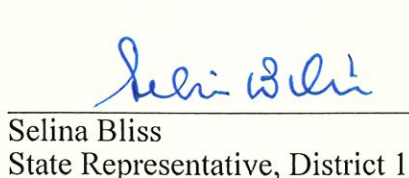
Demanding an increased reimbursement rate is a hardship placed upon BCBSAZ customers; employers and individuals in this area who are simply trying to provide insurance for their employees and families. Forcing them to pay millions more in premiums over the course of the year is not sustainable or reasonable. Consumers cannot simply switch insurance plans mid-year, even if the networks change, so this means they will be forced to find new doctors or pay the higher out-of-network rate.

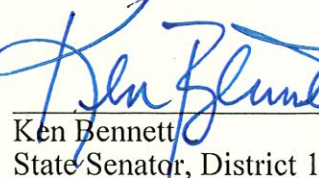
As lawmakers, we do not believe the government should interfere in private business contracts, but we care about our constituents and understand their worry and frustration over scare tactics in negotiations and a continuing escalation in health care costs.

We urge you to prioritize your patients and work with BCBSAZ to find a common ground that can avert this decision that will harms the people that you serve. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,


Quang Nguyen
State Representative, District 1


Selina Bliss
State Representative, District 1


Ken Bennett
State Senator, District 1