PLEASE OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1309 ("Parental Rights")

Senate Bill 1309 makes significant changes to the healthcare delivery system for minors. It requires written parental consent before any prescription order may be written for a minor, and it repeals the nearly forty-year old Arizona law that allows a minor to seek an exam or medical care for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) without parental consent.

Senate Bill 1309:

- **Creates New, Unnecessary Government Regulation.** SB 1309 creates new government regulation in a variety of areas.
  - Parents already provide consent for healthcare of their children. There is no evidence that parents are being improperly excluded from the healthcare decisions of their children to necessitate this significant change.
  - Limits healthcare providers from following best practices when unable to complete mental health screenings for children.
  - Creates additional burdens for busy parents. Parents would no longer be able to give consent by phone for routine chronic condition medications nor could they rely on extended family to take a sick child for an office visit as often occurs in rural communities.
  - 17 year-old college students, including out of state students, will not be able to access timely healthcare, increasing the burden to university health centers.
  - Establishes mandates of decision-making that should be left to parents, guardians, and trusted healthcare professionals.

- **Imposes Substantial Costs And Further Burdens the Healthcare Delivery System.** By requiring written parental consent for all prescriptions, SB 1309 increases the workload for the healthcare providers and paperwork for parents.
  - Eliminates the ability of a healthcare provider to "call in" new or refill prescriptions for children with easily diagnosed or treated conditions.
  - Increases cost for parents due to increased office visits and co-pays especially for those in rural communities where transportation to appointments is an issue.
  - As small business owners, healthcare providers will see increased administrative fees. These fees will likely be passed on to patients.
  - Increases the time for each medical office visit, creating longer waits for appointments.
  - Emergency room use will increase when after hour triage can no longer be provided because a written consent for medication is required.

- **Imperils Public Health and Poses Risks to Unborn Children**. If SB 1309 were enacted, Arizona would be the only state in the nation that would remove confidentiality of medical treatment from statute.
  - Requiring parental consent before a minor may seek an exam or treatment for an STD will mean fewer seek care. Untreated Chlamydia frequently spreads to the tubes and ovaries. This can lead to a lifetime of chronic pain and even infertility.
  - One in 7 pelvic inflammatory disease caused by untreated Chlamydia will result in hospitalization at an average cost of $20,000 each.
  - Untreated pregnant teens with an STD would put the unborn child at risk of infection and preterm birth.

For all of these reasons, the following organizations **OPPOSE SB 1309**:

Arizona Academy of Family Physicians
Arizona Chapter of the March of Dimes
Arizona Council of Human Services
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
Arizona Psychiatric Society
Arizona Public Health Association
Arizona Section-American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Arizona Association of Community Health Centers
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Arizona Medical Association
Arizona Nurses' Association
Arizona PTA
TERROS