



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association Board of Directors formally opposes legalization of marijuana for recreational use**

*Statement from AzHHA President/CEO Greg Vigdor*

PHOENIX – The Board of Directors for the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) has formally voted to oppose the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act. The initiative would legalize the recreational use of marijuana in the State of Arizona, and its campaign has submitted petition signatures to appear on the November ballot.

“The Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association opposes the legalization of marijuana for recreational use because it is antithetical to our mission to build better healthcare and health for the patients, people and communities of Arizona.

“There is much uncertainty – and risk – in this ballot initiative given the short, unsteady track record in states where the drug has been legalized for recreational use. What we do know from these states is the commercialization of marijuana increases pot-related hospitalizations; youth access and usage; accidental poisonings due to pediatric exposures and marijuana-related DUIs. Marijuana legalization is a bad bet.

“Arizona already faces considerable public health challenges, especially when it comes to substance abuse. Expanding access to recreational marijuana will only exacerbate these issues.

“On behalf of the 71 hospitals and healthcare facilities we represent in communities across Arizona, and out of concern for the well-being of patients and families, AzHHA opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana and asks Arizonans to vote ‘no’ in November.”

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### **About AzHHA**

AzHHA is Arizona’s largest and most influential organization representing hospitals and patients. Our objective is to reform healthcare through Better Care, Better Health and Lower Costs.

For more information, please contact [communications@azhha.org](mailto:communications@azhha.org) or call (602) 445-4300.

