

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2023

Ms. Pam Kehaly
President and CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

Mr. Tim Bricker
Interim President
Dignity Health's Southwest Division

President Kehaly and President Bricker:

We write with great concern regarding current contract negotiations between Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) and Dignity Health's Yavapai Regional Medical Center and Yavapai Regional Medical Group. We urge both parties to extend current negotiations and to maintain current coverage for all impacted enrollees until negotiations are concluded.

Yavapai Regional Medical Center plays a critical role in providing high-quality, inpatient and emergency care for the communities of Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey, Humboldt, Mayer, Paulden, Bagdad, Yarnell, Kirkland, Skull Valley, and Crown King. BCBSAZ, as one of three major carriers in this part of Arizona, is critical to ensuring Arizonans and their families are able access the full spectrum of care in their own communities. If Yavapai Regional Medical Center were no longer covered under impacted BCBSAZ plans, patients would be forced to drive hours away to access non-emergency services. This would delay care and lead to worse outcomes and sicker patient populations. Despite best intentions to maintain continuity of care for patients in active treatment, we also remain concerned that some patients may face challenges navigating their options to access needed care.

We appreciate that the past few years have strained Arizona's health care systems and that contract renewals are complex. The health and well-being of our Arizona communities, especially our rural communities, is a top priority for all involved. In accordance with all existing rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we respectfully urge both parties to extend negotiations and to allow impacted BCBSAZ patients to maintain in-network coverage at Yavapai Regional Medical Center until an agreement is reached. We stand ready to assist your efforts.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senator



Mark Kelly
U.S. Senator



Elijah Crane
Member of Congress