

Rebuttal to Argument Against Proposition 78

Proposition 78 is based on a successful Ohio program that delivers big discounts to consumers. Every major drug manufacturer participates in Ohio. Proposition 78 is an improved version of Ohio's program and will produce even larger discounts.

Even opponents admit that Proposition 78 could result in 40% discounts for consumers. Because it is adapted from a program already in operation, Proposition 78 won't be subject to lengthy court challenges. Unlike Prop. 79, Proposition 78 doesn't need federal government approval. Prop. 78 can take effect immediately, helping millions of seniors and low income, uninsured Californians get relief from high prescription drug costs.

The comparison to the Golden Bear program is misleading. That program was flawed, couldn't be implemented under federal rules to give Californians the largest discounts possible and was abandoned by the state. Proposition 78 was written to FIX that problem.

This year, the Schwarzenegger administration, working with leading Democrats, came together in the Legislature to support the CalRx program contained in Proposition 78. Had some legislators not succumbed to pressure from special interest groups and defeated CalRx in the Legislature, Californians would already be getting drug discounts.

Opponents falsely claim Proposition 78 can be abolished by drug companies. ONLY THE STATE can end the program if, for example, federal law changes and a new program becomes available that is better for Californians.

Proposition 78 is supported by dozens of groups representing seniors, taxpayers, small businesses, consumers, health care advocates and patient groups. It offers millions of Californians real help, right now on prescription drug prices. Vote YES on Proposition 78.

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**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**