

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Proposition 79

There are good reasons why pharmaceutical companies, health professionals and patient advocates oppose Proposition 79:

- ❖ The measure is so poorly written it will result in years of legal challenges and will never get approval by the federal government.
- ❖ It contains the same flaw that caused the failure of a similar program in Maine.
- ❖ Proposition 79 would let trial lawyers file thousands of lawsuits claiming that prices are too high or profits are unreasonable. Worse, the measure doesn't define what is a fair price or profit.

The backers of Proposition 79 rant against the pharmaceutical industry to obscure the real issues. The pharmaceutical industry is just one of many that have spoken out against Prop. 79. Groups representing seniors, physicians, nurses, taxpayers, small businesses and patients all oppose Proposition 79. Prop. 79 is also opposed by leaders in the fight against heart disease, cancer, epilepsy, asthma, AIDS, lupus and many other diseases.

Prop. 79 won't provide drug discounts to more people than Prop. 78 because Prop. 79 won't ever take effect. Just like a similar measure in Maine that spent years in court and never resulted in a single drug discount, Prop. 79 is a false promise. And if Proposition 79 did ever get implemented, it would establish a big government program costing taxpayers millions to administer and put at risk over \$480 million the state currently receives in drug rebates.

There is only one drug discount program on the ballot that will work and that is Proposition 78. Please don't be fooled by Prop. 79. It's the wrong prescription for California.

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ORDERED CHANGES**