



# Arizona and Telehealth: *Five Common Myths*

## **TELEHEALTH WILL HURT ARIZONA PATIENTS.**

Telehealth **helps patients** by providing them **better access to care** from world-renowned facilities and providers who are licensed by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Telehealth would give every Arizonan—not just the wealthy—access to the best available care.

## **TELEHEALTH IS EXPENSIVE AND LOWER QUALITY.**

Telehealth helps doctors provide **high-quality service at lower prices**. It **saves patients the cost** of having to travel to an office and wait for an appointment that did not require an in-person examination. Things like lab results, vital signs, and skin or wound conditions can effectively be shared via telehealth.

## **TELEHEALTH INTRODUCES UNFAIR COMPETITION INTO ARIZONA HEALTH CARE MARKETS AND HURTS PROVIDERS.**

Telehealth isn't "unfair" competition. Providers must be fully trained, competent, and licensed regardless of where they live. Telehealth just **incentivizes all providers** to give better quality service and to **reduce costs on patients**. Telehealth puts patients first, not profits.

## **SERVICES SUCH AS 1-800 CONTACTS AND OTHER TELEHEALTH PROVIDERS ARE NEW, UNPROVEN, AND DANGEROUS.**

Telehealth **isn't radical or new**, only our infrastructure's ability to deliver it to every Arizonan is. Providers such as 1-800 Contacts have been around for decades and **provide services for millions** of patients annually. Additionally, any malfeasance on the part of telehealth providers would be subject to severe action by the Attorney General's office, the Arizona civil tort system, and any relevant state licensing board.

## **PATIENTS HURT VIA TELEHEALTH MALPRACTICE HAVE NO RECOURSE.**

Telehealth **doesn't protect providers** from liability; **it protects patients** from needless costs. Arizona's telehealth proposal would authorize the Arizona licensing board to take any appropriate action against malpractice, including prohibiting any out-of-state practitioner from providing telehealth services in Arizona.