



VOTE YES ON PROP 8

We need fair pricing and better care for dialysis patients

END THE DIALYSIS PATIENT CARE CRISIS: Dialysis keeps patients alive when their kidneys fail by taking out the patient's blood, cleaning it, and putting it back in their body. In the United States, more than 477,000 people depend on dialysis, and two big corporations — Fresenius and DaVita — monopolize the industry, controlling more than 75% of the market.

PATIENT CARE IS SUFFERING: Patients and caregivers report sanitation problems, including bloodstains and cockroaches in dialysis clinics. The lack of proper sanitation and hygiene can contribute to high infection rates.

DIALYSIS CORPORATION PROFITS ARE OUT OF CONTROL: Big dialysis corporations make billions of dollars annually. The average profit margin for DaVita and Fresenius clinics in California is 17% — more than five times as high as the profit margin for an average hospital in California. They spend lavishly on executive pay and perks like private airplanes.

OVERCHARGING DRIVES UP COSTS FOR ALL OF US: Dialysis companies charge patients with private insurance an average \$150,000 for a year of dialysis treatment. That's a 350% markup from the cost of providing care! Insurance companies are forced to pass the costs to all policyholders, driving up healthcare premiums for us all. Blue Shield of California reports that it takes 3,800 enrollees to offset the cost of one dialysis patient.

WE NEED TO INVEST IN PATIENT CARE: Proposition 8 will push for-profit dialysis corporations to spend more money on direct patient care with revenues limited to no more than 15% above the amount they spend on patient care. By linking revenue to care, dialysis corporations will have a greater incentive to invest in patient care. And, when we stop dialysis companies from overcharging we can bring down the cost of healthcare premiums for all of us.

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For information go to www.yeson8.com