



## ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009  
TELEPHONE: (602) 252-6563 • FACSIMILE: (602) 254-0969

JOE DEDMAN, APACHE COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Jan Brewer  
Governor- State of Arizona  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

We write today to express our support for your state budget proposal to expand AHCCCS/Medicaid.

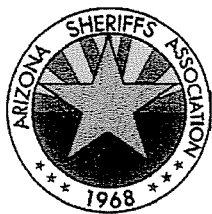
In all of Arizona's counties, we are experiencing the impacts of people with untreated medical and mental health conditions in our jails. Had they been receiving care for their chronic conditions, the situations that have led them to incarceration may not have occurred. In addition, their unstable health conditions put additional stressors and resource demands on our infirmaries and staff.

Deputies in the field are also seeing the impacts of untreated mental health conditions among those who no longer qualify for AHCCCS/Medicaid. Formerly stable people with mild to moderate mental health disorders are taxing the resources of deputies, often unnecessarily.

We believe that supporting expansion of AHCCCS/Medicaid will provide an avenue for more people to qualify for health care. It is the most effective approach to address the challenges we are experiencing for the following reasons:

- The proposed hospital/provider assessment that will pay for this expansion relieves the State General Fund of the Proposition 204 burden and releases funds for other State priorities. Arizona voters have twice approved expanding AHCCCS coverage.
- It is a smart economic decision that will inject an estimated \$2 billion into our State economy.
- Rural and safety-net hospitals will be protected from their increasing levels of uncompensated care.
- Expanding keeps Arizona tax dollars at home instead of paying for Medicaid expansions in other states.

We cannot lose sight of the connection between access to health care and public safety. We are experiencing it daily. Health care decisions do impact jobs, the economy, education, public safety and community well-being. Tragedies like those in Aurora, Colorado; Newtown,



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Connecticut; and even Tucson; have their roots in mental health. Making AHCCCS/Medicaid services more accessible to more Arizonans who are struggling economically will benefit the communities as a whole, as well as public safety in general. Thus we support your proposal for Medicaid expansion.

Respectfully,

Joe Dedman  
President- Arizona Sheriffs Association  
Apache County Sheriff

Kelly C. Clark  
Vice-President- Arizona Sheriffs Association  
Navajo County Sheriff

Mark J. Dannels  
Cochise County Sheriff

William B. Pribil  
Coconino County Sheriff

Adam Shepherd  
Gila County Sheriff

Preston J. Allred  
Graham County Sheriff

Larry Avila  
Greenlee County Sheriff

John Drum  
La Paz County Sheriff

Tom Sheahan  
Mohave County Sheriff

Clarence Dupnik  
Pima County Sheriff

Paul R. Babeu  
Pinal County Sheriff

Tony Estrada  
Santa Cruz County Sheriff

Scott Mascher  
Yavapai County Sheriff

Leon Wilmot  
Yuma County Sheriff