



Daily Briefing

Hospitals may be forced to deny care to illegal immigrants

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Under a proposed state law, Arizona hospitals may be required to check a patient's citizenship or immigration status and deny nonemergency care to people who are in the United States illegally, *Politico* reports.

Under the proposal—the first of its kind in the United States—patients seeking nonemergency care would have to provide proof of citizenship or legal immigrant status prior to being admitted. Although patients seeking emergency care would still receive treatment, the bill requires hospitals to notify federal immigration officials of patients who do not have adequate documentation. Hospitals also would have to notify officials of nonemergency patients denied care because of their status.

Supporters of the Republican-backed bill say it is a crucial way to fight illegal immigration, especially given the tens of millions of dollars spent by hospitals to treat illegal immigrants in the ED. However, the **Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association** criticized the bill, saying it would create "an undue burden" on patients and hospitals and would "result in a delayed hospital admissions process for all patients, including U.S. citizens." Arizona Democrats, meanwhile, argue that the law would turn hospital employees into immigration agents, *Politico* reports.

The bill was placed on the state Senate Judiciary Committee agenda on Monday but pulled when Republican lawmakers determined they lacked sufficient votes. Supporters say they plan to present the bill in different committees. If passed, the law would stiffen the nation's most "controversial" state law on illegal immigration, *MedPage Today* reports. Last year, Arizona enacted a law that required law enforcement to check the immigration status of any person suspected of being in the country illegally (Wong, *Politico*, 2/15; Gever, *MedPage Today*, 2/15; AP/CBS News, 2/14).

New accountable care resources

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