



For Immediate Release

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## **Rep. Lesko Forced to Remove Slanderous Campaign Signs; Dr. Tipirneni Demands Removal of Ads Making Same Claims**

*Arizona Medical Association Political Action Committee refutes “fake doctor” claims,  
makes endorsement of Lesko contingent on removal of signs*

**PEORIA, AZ** – Today Dr. Hiral Tipirneni, an emergency room physician, cancer research advocate, and candidate for Arizona’s 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (AZ-08), thanked the Arizona Medical Association Political Action Committee (ArMPAC) for forcing career politician Rep. Debbie Lesko to remove her defamatory signs regarding Dr. Tipirneni’s medical degree and license.

“Facts matter, and the fact is I’ve been a licensed medical doctor in Arizona since 1997. My entire career has been about solving problems and improving lives. I developed these skills and values in emergency medicine and cancer research advocacy, and would bring them with me to Washington,” stated Dr. Tipirneni. “I also demand my opponent remove her ads that clearly parrot the same slanderous lies,” added Dr. Tipirneni.

In an email to its membership, ArMPAC said:

“...Congresswoman Lesko’s campaign had created and placed ‘fake doctor’ signs next to the signs of her opponent, Dr. Hiral Tipirneni. Beyond being untrue, ArMPAC views those campaign signs as an insult to the medical profession, discounting the education and training required of physicians to become licensed and credentialed.

...We conveyed to the Lesko team ArMPAC’s position that despite the fact that Dr. Tipirneni is not currently treating patients, it does not make her any less of a real doctor of medicine. **After this discussion, the Congresswoman has decided to take down all of the signs.**

With the agreement to remove the signs, ArMPAC will continue its endorsement of Congresswoman Lesko. We look forward to a positive working relationship with both candidates in the future.”

**Tipirneni is closing on Lesko 48-44**, according to a [recent survey](#) of AZ-08 voters. This poll showed that since an August 2018 baseline survey, **Tipirneni has closed a 9-point deficit, putting her within the margin of error**, and poised to flip this congressional seat.

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Dr. Hiral Tipirneni (“HERE-uhl tipper-NEH-knee”), an emergency room physician and cancer research advocate, is a candidate for Arizona’s 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. After losing her mother and nephew to cancer, she left emergency medicine to concentrate on cutting-edge cancer research. Now she leads teams of researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates in the fight against breast cancer, prostate cancer and childhood leukemia. At the age of three, Hiral came to America from India with her family in pursuit of the American dream. Hiral and her husband met while in medical school in Ohio. They have lived in the Phoenix area, where their three children were born and raised, for more than 20 years. She is on the board of directors for the Maricopa Health Foundation.

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For more than 125 years, the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) has advocated for physicians and the public. As a house of medicine, standing strongly in defense of licensed doctors of medicine in Arizona. In 2018, this year, ArMPAC endorsed Debbie Lesko for the U.S. House of Representatives in CD 8 in Maricopa County. During her tenure as a state lawmaker, Lesko has been supportive of physicians and has had a strong voting record on health care issues, thus appropriately earning ArMPAC's endorsement.

We learned this week that Congresswoman Lesko's campaign had created and placed campaign signs next to the signs of her opponent, Dr. Hiral Tipirneni. Beyond being untrue, ArMPAC considers these campaign signs as an insult to the medical profession, discounting the education and training required for physicians to become licensed and credentialed.

Earlier today, ArMPAC staff met directly with Congresswoman Lesko and her campaign to express our concern regarding the signs. Rep. Lesko shared that ABC News ran a story which questioned whether her opponent would wear medical scrubs and portray herself as a practicing doctor since she has not treated patients in over a decade. The Congresswoman believes this is an important issue in the upcoming election and hoped that the signs would communicate this message. We conveyed to the Lesko team our position that despite the fact that Dr. Tipirneni is not currently treating patients, it does not make her any less of a real doctor of medicine. **After this discussion, the Congresswoman has decided to take down all of the signs.**

We felt it was important to share this background and information with you, our valued members. In our agreement to remove the signs, ArMPAC will continue its endorsement of Congresswoman Lesko. We look forward to a positive working relationship with both candidates in the future.

Sincerely,

Gary Figge, MD  
ArMPAC Chair

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