



For Immediate Release

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Rep. Lesko Loses Endorsement Over Slanderous Signs and Deceptive Ad That Disregards Family Tragedies

Arizona Medical Association Political Action Committee rescinds endorsement; Lesko's TV ad violated the spirit of her agreement to respect the medical profession

PEORIA, AZ – Late last night, Dr. Hiral Tipirneni, an emergency room physician, cancer research advocate, and candidate for Arizona's 8th Congressional District, thanked the Arizona Medical Association Political Action Committee (ArMPAC) for rescinding its endorsement of career politician Rep. Debbie Lesko after she failed to fulfill her commitment to respect the medical profession, and the physician community in particular. (*Rescission email attached.*)

Recently, [ArMPAC forced Rep. Lesko to remove](#) her defamatory signs regarding Dr. Tipirneni's medical degree and valid license. Despite that contingent endorsement, the Lesko campaign has continued with deceptive TV and digital ads violating the spirit of that agreement, and attempting to gain political ground by [ignoring the deaths](#) of Dr. Tipirneni's mother and young nephew. [The American Healthcare Coalition also called](#) for ArMPAC to revoke its endorsement of Lesko.

"I commend ArMPAC for its defense of truth and of the medical profession, and I greatly appreciate all of the physicians who reached out to protect the integrity of what it means to be a physician. Rep. Lesko was given multiple opportunities to show the same integrity and respect for the truth. Unfortunately, she failed to do the right thing," stated Dr. Tipirneni. "Becoming a physician requires extensive education, training, and learning the critical art of medicine. Attacking that, and in doing so, a fellow candidate's professional legitimacy, should never be used to score cheap political points," Hiral added.

Debbie's antics have led her to be described as "[a fake](#)," "[a sleaze](#)," and having "[Not. A. Clue.](#)"

So in a perhaps not-so-stunning reversal, [Lesko now claims](#) she won't be "bullied by a special-interest group" whose endorsement she once touted.

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 8th 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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ARIZONA MEDICAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

For more than 125 years, the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) has stood strongly in defense of all licensed Arizona physicians. We take our responsibility to represent the house of medicine in Arizona very seriously. Last week we shared with you a decision made by our ArMPAC Board of Directors to continue endorsement of Rep. Debbie Lesko, the incumbent candidate in the Arizona Congressional District 8 race.

The continued endorsement of Congresswoman Lesko was based on our understanding that there would be timely removal of negative campaign signs considered to be demeaning to the medical profession. The campaign has worked to remove the offensive signage, and we thank them for taking steps to honor that agreement. However, additional TV and social media ads are being run that are viewed by some as disrespectful to the physician community at-large. We also heard from many of you, our valued members, expressing concern with ArMPAC's continued support of this candidate because of the negative campaign tactics employed.

Based on these recent developments, ArMPAC's Board has decided to rescind its prior endorsement and make no candidate endorsement in the Arizona Congressional District 8 race. This decision was not made lightly and is without precedent for ArMPAC; however, the Board felt that continuing the endorsement would not be in the best interests of our physician community.

We urge both CD 8 candidates (and all other candidates for political office) to speak to the policy issues that matter most to voters and to share proposed solutions. All ArMA members are encouraged to vote on November 6 and have their voice be heard.

Sincerely,

Gary Figge, MD
ArMPAC Chair

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