




# Why Uber's Ballot Initiative Puts LGBTQ+ Communities at Risk

Uber is once again abusing California's ballot initiative process to rewrite the rules in its favor.

**After spending hundreds of millions to pass Proposition 22 and avoid responsibility to its drivers, Uber is now pushing a new constitutional amendment that would:**

-  **Limit recoverable medical expenses to a fraction** of actual market costs so that big corporations like Uber can protect company profits.
-  Apply to **ALL motor vehicle accidents: trucks, cars, and motorcycles** — not just rideshare.
-  **Make it harder for injured victims to get legal representation**, jeopardizing their ability to recover medical expenses while reducing accountability for multi-billion dollar corporations.

This measure would impact every Californian, including LGBTQ+ people who already face barriers to healthcare, legal representation, and economic stability.

## LGBTQ+ Communities Should Be Skeptical of Uber's Claims

Uber has suggested this measure could unfairly impact LGBTQ+ people targeted under discriminatory laws decades ago. Those concerns are real — but California has already addressed this injustice. Under reforms such as SB 384, individuals impacted by discriminatory enforcement can be removed from sex offender registries.

This initiative does not address those harms — and invoking them here distracts from the measure's real impact: limiting access to care and accountability for injured people.

## This Measure Makes It Harder to Get Medical Care After an Accident

For many LGBTQ+ Californians, access to timely, affirming medical care is already a challenge. **Right now, doctors can treat accident victims immediately and get paid later through legal claims.**

### UNDER UBER'S INITIATIVE

- ✗ Medical payments would be capped at Medicare rates (far below market cost)
- ✗ Fewer providers would accept patients on a lien
- ✗ Patients could face out-of-pocket costs upfront for MRIs, surgery, and care
- ✗ Many would delay or forgo treatment altogether

This shifts the burden of care onto patients — hitting marginalized communities the hardest.

## Uber's Initiative Undermines Access to Justice — Especially for Vulnerable Communities

LGBTQ+ Californians are more likely to experience violence and face discrimination in healthcare and employment. Most people, including the LGBTQ+ community, can't afford legal representation up front, so **many lawyers get paid only if they win** — that's how working-class Californians access the justice system. Uber's initiative would essentially eliminate this system to **reduce the amount of lawsuits they face**.

**Key Fact: Uber's million dollar lawyers face zero restrictions under this initiative. Only injured victims would be limited.**

Uber's initiative requires that attorney's fees, many medical bills, and other costs all must be paid from 25% of any settlement or verdict. In most cases, medical bills alone make up 25% of the recovery, meaning a lawyer would not get paid at all. This means lawyers won't take these cases:

- ✗ For example, in a \$1 million settlement with \$250,000 in medical bills, the case has already met its 25% cap — meaning you couldn't pay for legal representation in the first place while Uber faces no restrictions in how they pay their lawyers.
- ✗ Without an attorney, injured workers would be left negotiating alone against corporate legal teams and insurance company lawyers who face no restrictions.

**Real-world impact:** A mother struck by a drunk driver incurred over \$500,000 in medical liens. Her attorney secured a seven-figure settlement, negotiated liens from 41% of the settlement down to 27%, and charged a 25% fee. The client kept 48%, enough to cover her ongoing care.

### UNDER UBER'S INITIATIVE

- ✗ Medical bills alone would exceed the legal cap
- ✗ Her attorney could not legally be paid
- ✗ She likely would have had no representation — and no recovery

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