

Uber is Trying To Do Something **NO STATE IN AMERICA** Has Ever Done — **And It Would Be Permanent**

Uber's ballot initiative would write sweeping corporate liability protections into the California Constitution — bypassing the Legislature, bypassing the courts, and locking in the result **permanently**. No other state has done this. There's a reason for that: **it is a radical dismantling of the civil justice system that could never survive the scrutiny of the legislative process.**

What the Initiative Does

✗ Caps Medical Recovery Below Actual Cost of Care

“Limits Accident Victims’ Recovery of Medical Expenses” — that’s the California Attorney General’s official description of what Uber’s initiative does. In practice, it caps what injured Californians can recover at **125% of Medicare rates** — a government reimbursement standard set for elderly patients, far below what hospitals and specialists actually bill. **No other state in America constitutionally limits medical recovery for accident victims.**

✗ Makes it a Criminal Misdemeanor for Injured People to Have a Lawyer

Federal law requires attorneys to pay medical liens from settlements before distributing any funds. In serious injury cases, those liens alone routinely exceed the 25% cap — making it a **criminal misdemeanor** for an attorney to collect any fee. **This has no precedent in American law.**

✗ Covers Every Accident on Every California Road in California

This is not a rideshare bill. It applies to every motor vehicle accident statewide — **trucks, cars, motorcycle accidents, work-related collisions, robotaxi incidents, even DUI accidents.** It applies to **every constituent in every district.**

✗ The Legislature Cannot Undo It

Because Uber is writing this into the **California Constitution**, it cannot be amended or repealed by the Legislature. **Only another expensive statewide ballot campaign can reverse it.** That is not an oversight. It is the strategy.

The Asymmetry Uber is Hiding

UNDER UBER'S INITIATIVE

Uber's Defense Lawyers

- ✗ No fee caps. No payment limits.
- ✗ No restriction on how much Uber pays its attorneys.
- ✗ No criminal liability. No restrictions of any kind.

vs

YOUR CONSTITUENTS' ATTORNEYS

Injured Californians' Lawyers

- ✓ 25% fee caps — often consumed entirely by medical liens before any fee is paid.
- ✓ Criminal misdemeanor to collect a fee when liens exceed cap.
- ✓ Most serious injury cases become impossible to take.

Real Case

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

The liens alone exceed the 25% cap before any attorney fee can legally be charged — making it a criminal misdemeanor for the attorney to get paid. Without an attorney, the insurer's offer was \$100,000, all of which would have gone directly to the insurer. The client would have received nothing.

ZERO Other States Have Done This

No state in America constitutionally caps medical expense recovery for accident victims. No state criminalizes attorney fees in civil injury cases. If this passes, California would stand alone — **not as a leader, but as the only state that handed corporations a Constitutional right to limit what injured people can recover.** This is not incremental policy change. It is a radical, permanent restructuring of the civil justice system.

Every Constituent. Every Road. Every Accident.

Commercial & Delivery Drivers

A trucker or delivery driver seriously injured by a negligent driver on I-5 would have their medical recovery capped and no practical path to legal representation.

Motorcyclists & Commuters

Motorcycle accidents produce the most catastrophic injuries of any road accident. Medical costs routinely exceed what Uber's cap would allow — leaving victims with crushing, unrecoverable debt.

Robotaxi & AV Victims

Uber is aiming to deploy 20,000 autonomous vehicles starting in San Francisco and Los Angeles. This initiative gives this untested expansion a Constitutional liability shield — permanently limiting what victims can recover when something goes wrong.

A Deliberate, Escalating Strategy to Circumvent This Legislature

2020 Proposition 22

Uber spent **nearly \$100 million** to strip gig workers of employee classification — and the right to minimum wage, workers' comp, and employment benefits — bypassing the Legislature entirely.

2025 Nevada — Blocked

Uber tried a nearly identical attorney fee cap initiative in Nevada. The State Supreme Court **unanimously blocked it**, finding the petition "misled voters." Uber had spent \$5 million. Undeterred, Uber came to California.

2026 California — Targeting the Constitution

Having failed in Nevada, Uber is now targeting the California Constitution directly — **the hardest possible change to undo.** This is not an accident. It is the strategy.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Uber Couldn't Win This Through the Legislature.

There is a reason Uber is bypassing committee hearings, expert testimony, and legislative deliberation to write this directly into the California Constitution. **It could not survive scrutiny.** The Nevada Supreme Court unanimously blocked Uber's nearly identical initiative in 2025, finding it misled voters — after Uber had already spent \$5 million on the effort. California is next.

Once It Passes, The Legislature Cannot Fix It.

Constitutional amendments passed by voters cannot be amended or repealed by the Legislature — only by another expensive statewide ballot campaign. Uber is not just writing bad policy. **It is writing policy that is permanently beyond your reach.** That is the point.



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