

NO/Prop61

Protect Veterans. Vote **NO**.

www.NoProp61.com

Why Veterans Strongly Oppose Prop 61

More than twenty California veterans organizations oppose Prop 61 because it would take away a special benefit provided to those who have served our country and could increase prescription drug costs for veterans.



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of California; Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council; AMVETS, Department of California; American Legion, Department of California; and Military Officers Association of America, California Council of Chapters and other organizations urge you to help protect veterans by voting NO on Proposition 61.

Here's why veterans groups strongly oppose this deceptive proposition:

Prop 61 Would Increase Prescription Drug Costs and Reduce Access to Medicines for Veterans

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives special discounts on prescription drugs for veterans in honor of their service to our country. This helps keep medicines affordable to the nearly 75% of veterans who currently pay low out-of-pocket co-pays for prescriptions, and 25% of vets who pay no prescription co-pays.

"The American GI Forum of California strongly opposes Prop 61 because it could increase the prices veterans pay for prescription drugs. Veterans serve, and many die for, our country. They deserve to keep all of the special benefits afforded to them. Please vote No on 61."



– **Frederick A. Romero, Commander**
American GI Forum of California

Prop 61 would prohibit the state from entering into contracts for prescription drugs unless the prices are the same or lower than the special discounts provided to the VA.

Representatives of the VA and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) have on multiple occasions warned that extending VA contract pricing to other sizable populations, including state government purchasers, would result in increased health costs for veterans and their families by undermining the discounts provided to the VA.

"Prop 61 ignores the sacrifices veterans have made for our country. This deeply-flawed proposition would increase prescription drug costs for veterans and their families."



– **Dale Smith, Commander**
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW),
Department of California

In fact, past federal attempts to extend these special VA discounts increased VA prescription drug costs significantly. Those policies were later repealed.

If Prop 61 passes, and VA prescription drug costs go up, there would be added pressure to increase the prescription drug co-pays that veterans, military retirees and dependents of active duty military have to pay out of pocket.

Increased costs could also force the VA to limit the availability of certain drugs on their formularies – reducing access to medicines for veterans, military personnel and retirees.

"Veterans are no strangers to taking a stand for what they believe in. We oppose Prop 61 because we believe it will hurt veterans, and we will be working to ensure that California voters understand its negative consequences."



– **Steve Mackey, President**
Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council

Paid for by No on Prop 61 – Californians Against the Deceptive Rx Proposition, a coalition of veterans, doctors, patient advocates, seniors, taxpayers, and members of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America with major funding by Merck & Co., Inc., Pfizer, Inc. and other companies.