



MEDIA RELEASE

BC Health Voices launches campaign on Bill 36 and patient care

BRITISH COLUMBIA — BC Health Voices is launching a public awareness campaign about Bill 36, calling for a healthcare system shaped in partnership with the people who deliver care and the people who depend on it.

The campaign opposes Bill 36 because of concerns that its oversight, complaints and discipline framework could discourage candid communication, constrain professional judgment and make care harder to access. It calls for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, alongside patients and families, to have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting care.

The legislation, now the Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA), replaced the previous Health Professions Act on April 1, 2026. The government describes its objectives as stronger accountability, transparency and cultural safety. BC Health Voices believes patient protection must go hand in hand with genuine partnership.

Meaningful partnership. Doctors of BC has criticized the HPOA's development for lacking meaningful physician involvement. BC Health Voices wants frontline experience and patient perspectives to help shape decisions, with clear explanations of how that input influences the outcome.

Access to care. Doctors of BC has raised concerns that the HPOA could increase health-system costs and reduce access. For patients, the issue is whether help will be available when it is needed.

Candid communication and clinical judgment. Doctors of BC warns that fear of complaints may encourage tests or treatments that do not benefit patients. BC Health Voices believes professionals must be able to raise concerns and advocate for patients.

Independent and fair oversight. Doctors of BC raises concerns about greater opportunity for political influence in investigation and discipline. BC Health Voices wants fair, independent regulation that protects patients and earns public trust.

These concerns describe potential effects, not proof that the Act caused a particular patient's experience. BC Health Voices invites British Columbians to explore the sources and join the call for accessible, patient-centred care built through cooperation.

Media and interview enquiries: BC Health Voices
bchealthvoices.ca/take-action-contact/

Sources: [Province of BC HPOA overview](#) · [Doctors of BC advocacy update](#) · [HPOA analysis](#)