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**Supervisor Candidate Tonia Arey Demands Investigation into
Alleged Hospice Fraud in Los Angeles County**

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Tonia Arey, candidate for Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 3, is calling for an immediate investigation into alarming allegations of hospice care fraud recently brought to light and is criticizing both Director of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Barbara Ferrer and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath for their failure to act.

Recent reporting alleges widespread abuse within the hospice system, including fraudulent enrollment of patients, billing irregularities, and vulnerable individuals being placed into hospice care without proper medical justification and costing tax payers millions of dollars. These claims point to systemic failures in oversight and enforcement at the County level.

“If these allegations are true, what we are looking at is not just mismanagement—it is exploitation,” said Arey. “Patients and families may have been misled, and taxpayer dollars potentially misused, while those responsible for oversight have remained silent far too long.”

Los Angeles County has seen a rapid proliferation of hospice providers in recent years, raising concerns among healthcare professionals and regulators about so-called “ghost hospices” and bad actors entering the system to take advantage of weak enforcement.

“As Director of Public Health, Barbara Ferrer is responsible for ensuring that healthcare systems are properly monitored and regulated,” Arey said. “Supervisor Lindsey Horvath also has a duty to provide oversight and demand accountability. Yet despite these serious allegations, there has been no clear, urgent response.”

Arey is calling for:

- The immediate resignation of Director Barbara Ferrer.
- A full, independent investigation into hospice providers operating in Los Angeles County.
- Coordination with state and federal authorities to audit billing practices and patient eligibility.
- Immediate suspension and review of any providers credibly accused of fraud.
- Public hearings to ensure transparency and accountability.

“This is about protecting people at the most vulnerable point in their lives. Every dollar lost to a fraudster is a dollar that cannot be spent on people in need.” Arey added. “End-of-life care should never be turned into an opportunity for fraud or abuse.”

Arey emphasized that this issue reflects a broader pattern of inaction and lack of accountability within current County leadership.

“District 3 deserves leadership that will not look the other way,” Arey concluded. “We need action, transparency, and accountability now.”

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