



April 27, 2024

## REPUBLICANS WORK TO LOWER HOME PRICES

I have a victory to share in our efforts to tackle the housing shortage that's driving skyrocketing prices in Arizona. My bill, SB 1162, was signed into law. It cuts the government red tape responsible for slowing approvals on the zoning applications needed for home construction to begin, by requiring local governments adhere to reasonable timelines to help expedite the homebuilding process in an effort to increase supply and lower prices. Every hardworking citizen within our state should be able to afford a home in a safe community. Unfortunately, the American dream of homeownership has become unattainable for many Arizonans over the past five years because of increased demand combined with irresponsible actions from local governments. Republicans at the Arizona Legislature are committed to solving Arizona's housing shortage crisis, and this is a small piece of the puzzle.



*-Senator Janae Shamp*



## DEMOCRATS' WAR ON WOMEN & GIRLS CONTINUES

Arizona Democrats continue their war against women and girls as Hobbs' latest veto of my bill, SB 1182, blocks Republican efforts to protect girls from being forced to share showers with boys posing as females in our public schools. Every single Democrat lawmaker in both the Senate and House voted against this bill. It's utterly disgusting that Democrats, who are out-of-touch with reality, continue to push gender neutrality on our kids, endangering their safety and well-being just to politically platform off a small population they pretend to care about. All students, not just transgender kids, deserve to feel safe and deserve to have privacy when they're naked in a shower. This was a reasonable bill that a majority of Arizonans agree with. Unfortunately, our daughters, granddaughters, nieces, and neighbors will continue to be subjected to not only embarrassment, but sexual assaults and harassment. I encourage all real females in Arizona, who are eligible to vote, to stand up against these injustices by making their voices heard in the November election.



*-Senator John Kavanagh*





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## HOBBS PROTECTS SQUATTERS

The issue of squatters taking over people's homes is growing exponentially across the nation, including here in Arizona, yet Governor Katie Hobbs is refusing to address the problem. I worked to combat these crimes with a bipartisan measure Hobbs vetoed this week that would have expedited the removal of these criminals and strengthened homeowner property rights. In her veto letter, Katie Hobbs claimed the bill fails to protect the rights of lawful tenants and minimize unintended consequences for victims of domestic violence. She must not have read the bill. It addresses *illegal* occupants, not *lawful* tenants and has absolutely NOTHING to do with landlord-tenant law. It also has exemptions for family members and anyone with an agreement to cohabitate. Yet again, Hobbs has ignorantly vetoed another piece of commonsense bipartisan legislation that would have provided much-needed tools to protect Arizonans from victimization.



-Senator Wendy Rogers



## ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH WORKER SHORTAGE

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, Arizona only meets 40% of the mental health care needs of our citizens. This is an alarming statistic that I've set out to improve on behalf of all Arizonans who can't get appointments for treatment in a timely fashion. I sponsored SB 1062, which was signed into law this week, to replace the practice of *substance abuse* counseling with *addiction* counseling to include treatment for all forms of addiction that are a persistent, compulsive dependence on a behavior or substance. The bill also reduces the number of years out-of-state behavioral health professionals need to be licensed and certified in order to seek licensure from the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners. It's my belief that these small changes will have a tremendous impact in helping to meet Arizona's growing mental health workforce needs, as well as increase access for individuals seeking treatment for all types of addiction.



-Senator T.J. Shope





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## MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

We've had a number of instances this legislative session and last where state lawmakers were either removed or resigned from office for one reason or another. When this happens, business at the Capitol can be brought to a standstill until a replacement has been appointed. The process to appoint a new lawmaker can sometimes drag out and county board of supervisors have taken entirely too long to fill a vacancy in many situations. My bill, SB 1278, was just signed into law this week and requires government to be more efficient when filling these roles by establishing in statute reasonable timelines and protocols to designate a replacement in a prompt fashion to prevent a lengthy disruption to the legislative process. This new law will ensure the legislature is working as proficiently as possible for the people of Arizona when these situations arise.



-Senator J.D. Mesnard

## KEEPING ARIZONA'S CHILDREN SAFE

We're continuing efforts to reform and improve the troubled Department of Child Safety. We want to ensure this agency has proper oversight, is following ethical practices, and is promptly responding to issues threatening the health and welfare of the children in their custody. As part of our fact-finding mission, we held a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on DCS this week. This agency has been under the microscope for what I consider negligence with how it handles cases where children are removed from their homes. Data from 2022 shows children in Arizona were taken from their families at a rate 50% greater than the national average. As co-chairman of this committee, it's my goal to get to the bottom of why this is happening and to encourage the agency to instead keep as many families together as possible. Removing a child from their home can do more harm than good, creating life-long detrimental impacts on their well-being. Parents are also not being informed of their rights in these situations. Change is needed.



-Senator David Farnsworth



NAME	DISTRICT	PHONE	EMAIL
SENATOR KEN BENNETT	LD 1	(602) 926-5874	KBENNETT@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR SHAWNNA BOLICK	LD 2	(602) 926-3314	SBOLICK@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR JOHN KAVANAGH	LD 3	(602) 926-5170	JKAVANAGH@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR WENDY ROGERS	LD 7	(602) 926-3042	WROGERS@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR DAVID FARNSWORTH	LD 10	(602) 926-3387	DFARNSWORTH@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR J.D. MESNARD	LD 13	(602) 926-4481	JMESNARD@AZLEG.GOV
SENATE PRESIDENT WARREN PETERSEN	LD 14	(602) 926-4136	WPETERSEN@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR JAKE HOFFMAN	LD 15	(602) 926-3292	JAKE.HOFFMAN@AZLEG.GOV
PRESIDENT PRO-TEM T.J. SHOPE	LD 16	(602) 926-3012	TSHOPE@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR JUSTINE WADSACK	LD 17	(602) 926-3106	JWADSACK@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR DAVID GOWAN	LD 19	(602) 926-5154	DGOWAN@AZLEG.GOV
MAJORITY WHIP SINE KERR	LD 25	(602) 926-5955	SKERR@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR ANTHONY KERN	LD 27	(602) 926-3497	AKERN@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR FRANK CARROLL	LD 28	(602) 926-3249	FCARROLL@AZLEG.GOV
SENATOR JANA E SHAMP	LD 29	(602) 926-3499	JSHAMP@AZLEG.GOV
MAJORITY LEADER SONNY BORRELLI	LD 30	(602) 926-5051	SBORRELLI@AZLEG.GOV

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