

— March 15, 2025 —

# Caucus Newsletter

57th Legislature, 1st Regular Session



## Arizona State Senate Republican Caucus

### Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the Official Arizona Senate Republican Caucus Newsletter! This week, the Senate voted out from the chamber a few dozen straggler Senate bills and transmitted them to the House for consideration. We also continued to hear House bills in our committees, while Senate bills were heard in House committees.





## Successful Meetings with Trump Cabinet Officials

By President Warren Petersen

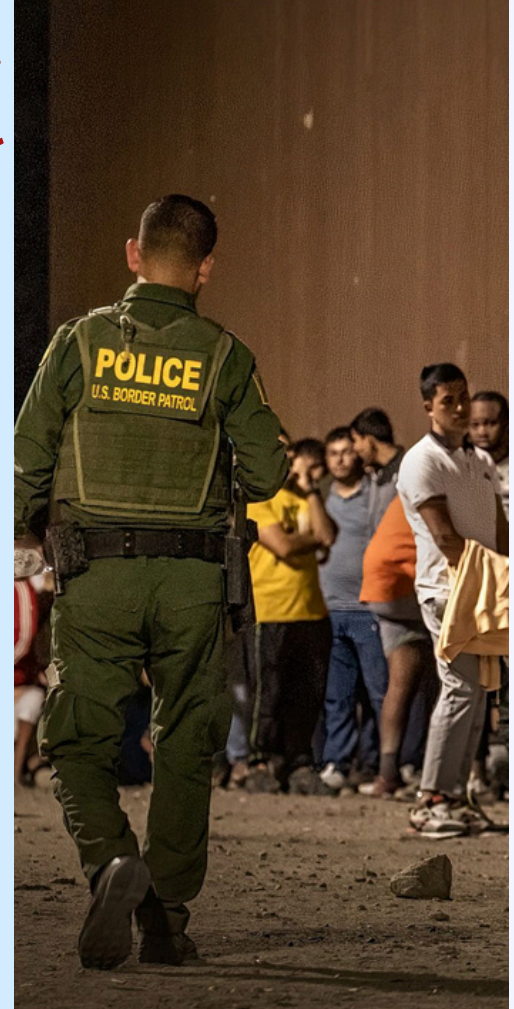
During my visit to Washington, D.C., President Trump's cabinet officials committed to delivering positive changes for Arizona. Radical environmental regulations imposed by the Biden Administration have hurt hardworking Arizonans and have contributed to the inflation nightmare that President Trump is diligently working to solve. EPA Administrator Zeldin is delivering on President Trump's promises to lead America into a golden era. I appreciate him taking the time to listen to and act on our concerns, as well as for his foresight in developing a commonsense plan to protect Arizona's future. Meanwhile, progressive Democrat activists have launched an assault against Arizona's laws and our law enforcement, yet instead of defending our state's interests, Arizona's A.G. is wasting time fighting against the Trump Administration in an effort to obstruct his policies that voters overwhelmingly want implemented. I'm relieved Arizona has A.G. Bondi as an ally to help rectify wrongs committed against Arizona, and to defend against a weaponized government.



## Supporting Federal Border Security Efforts in Arizona

By Senator John Kavanaugh

As the Trump Administration continues to remove criminal illegal aliens from Arizona communities, Senate Republicans are advancing three of my bills to join the valiant efforts to secure the southern border and make Arizona safe again. SB 1294 requires the Arizona Department of Administration to lease the currently vacant Marana Prison to the U.S. government for \$1 per year. SB 1299 establishes the Law Enforcement Personnel Grant Program to reimburse law enforcement agencies for immigration training costs. SB 1610 requires county detention facilities to provide personal identifying information and access to an arrested person, on the request of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Voters made it very clear in the last election - they are FED UP with the massive tsunami of people who have been entering this country illegally. We will stand with President Trump in this mission. I look forward to seeing these bills pass the House and advance to the Governor for her signature.

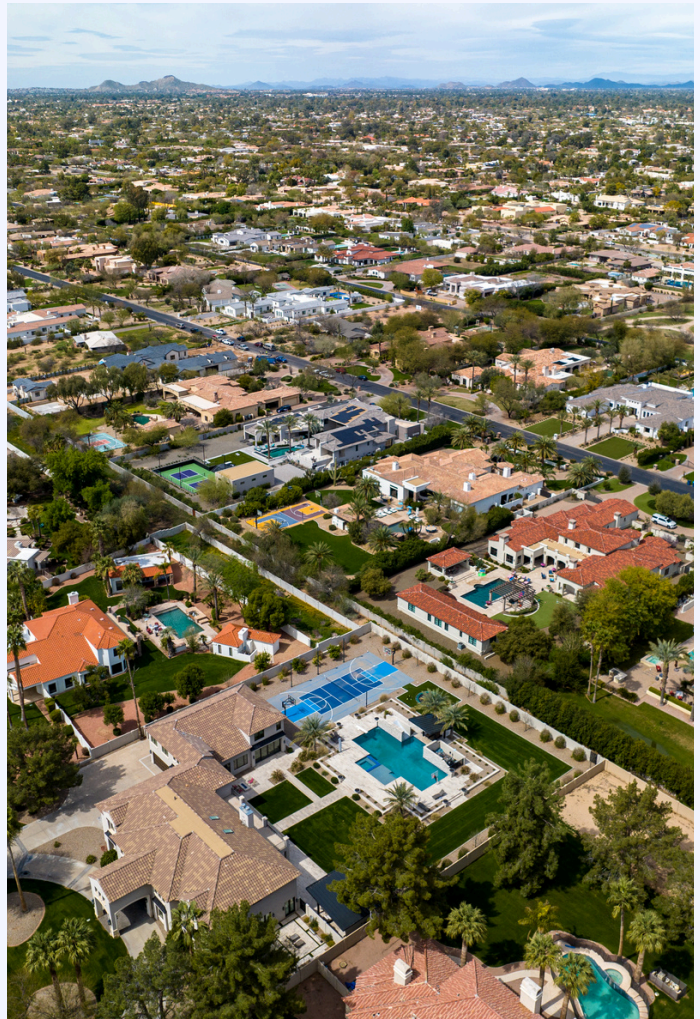




# Mitigating the Fire Insurance Crisis

By Senator Mark Finchem

In response to an eye-opening Senate Federalism Committee hearing this week to investigate the causes behind recent fire insurance cancellations and dramatic premium increases on homeowners, I am now requesting assistance from the federal government to provide indemnification to individuals impacted, and to release Arizona's land from proprietorial-only control, placing it back under the authority of the State. Insurance representatives, energy providers, and various fire chiefs shared compelling testimony shining a light on the causes fueling the ongoing fire insurance crisis in Arizona and the effects it's having on Arizonans. Due to long standing federal land mismanagement policies and activist judges, combined with organizations like the Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity focusing their attention on radical political ideologies, they've served as the 'ecoterrorists' who've caused the catastrophic crisis Arizonans are currently facing today. We are blessed to have President Trump in office during this trying time, knowing his track record for taking quick and decisive actions to undo the bad policies of prior administrations. I remain committed to seeing this through, ensuring every Arizonan has the security and reassurance they need to feel safe. I will keep you posted on my progress.





# Andrew's Law: Cracking Down on Bullying

By Senator Shawna Bolick

A bill designed to fight back against bullying in Arizona's K-12 schools is being considered in the House after passing the Senate with Republican support. "Andrew's Law," also known as SB 1508, was inspired by Andrew Harstad, a Hamilton High student who took his own life in 2022 after being relentlessly bullied at school. The bill requires a school district governing board to adopt specific definitions on bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation. The definitions must be included within district policies and procedures to prohibit these detrimental behaviors within Arizona's schools, on school property, within school busses and at bus stops, at school-sponsored events, and through the use of technology or electronic communications. The bullying Andrew endured is becoming more common among our youth. In some cases, victims see no other options than to take their own lives to end the suffering. This crisis has only gotten worse with the evolution of cell phones and social media. It's time school districts adopt standardized policies with preventative measures and interventions to protect Arizona's youth. Clearly defining what bullying actually entails is a step in the right direction to ensure student safety, both on and off campus.



# Protecting Children from Sexual Predators in Schools

By Senator Carine Werner

I hosted a [press conference this week](#) calling on lawmakers and the Governor to support the passage of SB 1437 to protect children in Arizona's K-12 schools from sexual predators. Maricopa County Attorney Rachell Mitchell, child safety advocates, as well as a victim of sexual predation and her family, all joined in support. The bill adds governing board members of school districts and charter schools, substitute teachers, and school safety officers to the list of those who are required to report to a law enforcement agency any allegations of sexual misconduct of a public school employee with a student. After passing out of Senate Education Committee with unanimous bipartisan support, I was disheartened when the bill was brought to the Senate floor for a vote, and all Senate Democrats voted against it, despite nothing changing about the bill. SB 1437 has again received near unanimous bipartisan support in a House committee, so I'm hopeful that support will carry over when the bill is brought before the full House for a final vote.



## Supporting Arizona Veterans Who Are Battling PTSD

*By Senator David Gowan*



Senate Republicans are supporting veterans by passing my legislation to provide funding for mental health services, and an emergency measure to allow transport and admission evaluations for veterans suffering with PTSD. Both bills are being transmitted to the House of Representatives for consideration after receiving bipartisan support in the Senate. SB 1162 is an emergency measure to give police officers, employed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more opportunity to step in when a veteran is suffering from a mental health crisis. SB 1710 establishes the Mental Health Services for Veterans Grant Program. The bill appropriates \$2,000,000 from the state's general fund to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) for the grant program. Increasing access to mental health services is a matter of life and death for many veterans. SB 1162 & SB 1710 will ensure veterans not only have access to the services they need when they are in the middle of a crisis but also have consistent and long-term support to address the mental health challenges they face before, during, and after combat. I'm hopeful that with bipartisan support, we can move forward in addressing these critical issues and ensure that every veteran gets the care they deserve.



## **Holding Pedophiles Accountable**

**By Majority Leader Janae Shamp**

During testimony last month in the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Pinal County Attorney Brad Miller revealed two undercover sting operations over a four-week period conducted by Pinal County Sheriff's Office earlier this year resulted in the arrest of 20 adults who were caught luring children for sex acts. Unfortunately, he reported some cases couldn't be charged under *Dangerous Crimes Against Children* statutes due to a court of appeals opinion on how current law is to be interpreted. I sponsored [SB 1585](#) to make pedophiles lives hell, ensuring these monsters, who knowingly and intentionally target someone they believe to be a child, are held accountable under the full weight of our laws. Currently, some predators may only receive probation, instead of being thrown behind bars where they belong. Whether an undercover officer posing as a child catches the pervert for soliciting sex acts, or the victim is an actual child, both situations deserve serious consequences from our judicial system. SB 1585 passed out of the Senate unanimously.



## **Do No Harm: Patients' Bill of Rights Passes Senate**

**By Majority Whip Frank Carroll**

Senate Republicans are working to better protect patients who are receiving medical care in Arizona with a legislative proposal to bolster rights against unnecessary harm from healthcare providers. I am sponsoring SB 1600, which passed the Senate this week and heads to the House for consideration. The bill codifies a patient's rights into state statute. It stipulates that if a patient receives health care services in Arizona, the patient has the right to receive health care services from a health professional who acts only in the patient's best interest, resolves to do no harm to the patient, and ensures that each medical decision (except in an emergency) requires informed consent. In the wake of the pandemic, Arizonans are demanding peace of mind when receiving any form of health care from a licensed professional or provider. Government, corporations, and any other entities should not dictate what is best for a patient. These decisions need to be left up to the patient, in consultation with their doctors. By passing this proposal, our state is sending a clear message that we stand alongside patients making their own decisions for their respective avenues of health care.



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