



June 15, 2024

## PROPOSED STATE BUDGET ELIMINATES DEFICIT

I'm relieved to report we introduced a fiscally conservative state budget this week, hashed out between Republicans and the Governor's office. The \$16.1 billion proposal eliminates a \$1.4 billion deficit and shrinks government, while protecting the critical services our state relies on to function. We're tightening the state's belt by trimming fat from state agencies and public universities, to the tune of a manageable 3.5% for most entities, with the exception of the Departments of Public Safety, Corrections, Child Safety, and the Auditor General, which did not receive these cuts. Additionally, we reallocated unspent tax dollars to the general fund to eliminate the funding gap, without irresponsibly tapping into our rainy-day fund. Republicans also worked vigorously to protect \$350 million in transportation projects approved in last year's budget, despite Governor Hobbs' best efforts to axe this crucial funding. -Senator John Kavanagh



## HOBBS' PAY-TO-PLAY CASE UNDER INVESTIGATION

I have an update to the pay-to-play scheme involving Governor Hobbs and Sunshine Residential Homes. If you recall, news broke last week on the group home provider donating a total of \$400,000 to both Hobbs' gubernatorial campaign and her inauguration fund, as well as to the Arizona Democratic Party, then subsequently receiving a 60% increase in compensation from the Department of Child Safety. After I wrote letters to both Attorney General Mayes and County Attorney Mitchell asking them to launch investigations into this case, Mayes agreed but attempted to strongarm Mitchell into staying out of it. Despite her efforts, Mitchell pushed back and will now also be conducting an investigation, in concert with Auditor General Perry. I think this is the right move, as a conflict of interest between Democrat Mayes and the Democrat she's investigating is bad for public trust. I'm thankful some of our local media have been holding Hobbs' feet to the fire, but of course, she's evading their questions. This is a serious situation, and our taxpayers deserve answers. -Senator T.J. Shope



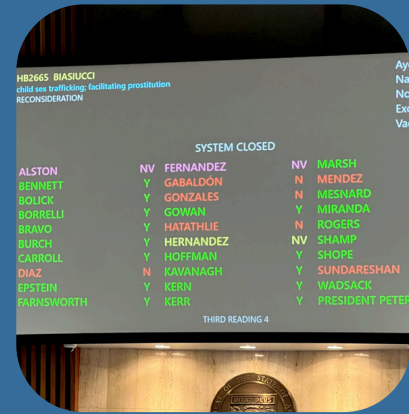


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## DEMOCRATS VOTE AGAINST CHILDREN

We voted on the remaining bills floating through the Legislature this week. Two of those sparked outrageous, but unsurprising 'no' votes from Senate Democrats. Six of them voted against a bill to create tougher penalties for child sex traffickers and greater protections for the young victims of these heinous crimes. Newsflash, Democrats, our children are NOT for sale! I dedicated much of my work this session to ensure this message is clear, and I cannot fathom how anyone could vote no on such a measure. HB 2665 still passed out of the Senate with full Republican support. On a less egregious note, ten Senate Democrats also voted against allowing Arizona kids to have lemonade stands without a license and without having to pay taxes. You can't make this stuff up! Even liberal Colorado has approved a similar law! SB 1370 passed the Legislature with full Senate Republican support and now heads to the Governor's desk for signature. My hope is that she has more sense to her than her legislative counterparts.

*-Senator Shawna Bolick*



## SUSPECTED TERRORISTS CROSS OPEN BORDER

A recent Fox News report revealed eight Tajikistan nationals with ties to ISIS were caught by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in conjunction with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in three major cities across America. These terrorists crossed the border illegally and were processed then released into our country without being flagged. Luckily, we were able to catch them later on, but eventually, our luck WILL run out! Clearly, our vetting process is not very efficient, and that's for the people who we actually processed! This doesn't include the millions of gotaways who've entered our country illegally and were never caught. How many more terrorists will we allow in before we wake up to the reality of what's really going on? Thankfully, Republicans get it. That's why we're sending the Secure the Border Act to the November ballot. It will help prevent these violent terrorists and criminals from entering our country. The threat to our safety as Arizonans and Americans is at an all-time high!

*-Senator Frank Carroll*





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