



February 3, 2024

## A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH TEXAS

I commend Texas Governor Greg Abbott for his efforts to defend his state from the border invasion our nation is enduring at the hands of the Biden Administration. I believe very strongly Governor Hobbs should follow his lead. This week, I introduced SCR 1042 to express the Legislature's commitment of support for Texas, to call on Hobbs to do the same, and to demand Joe Biden fulfill his constitutional duty to fight back against the invasion. Senate President Petersen and House Speaker Toma also signed onto a letter with more than two dozen state attorneys general urging Biden and his Department of Homeland Security to either enforce our immigration laws and protect our southern border, or get out of the way so Texas can. Our law enforcement resources are outnumbered, and our communities are in peril from the millions of people who have entered our country illegally since Biden took office. We're experiencing numerous horrific crimes daily.

*-Senator Shawna Bolick*



## ARIZONA STARTER HOMES ACT

Hardworking Arizonans are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase their first home and begin their pursuit of the American dream. With the average home sale price in our state currently surpassing \$400,000, many young families and young professionals have been priced out of the market. This week, House Majority Leader Biasiucci and I hosted a press conference to bring attention to this issue and to urge lawmakers to pass the Arizona Starter Homes Act. This legislation is a step in the right direction in bringing prices down by eliminating some of the government bureaucracy contributing to increased costs on homebuilding. We heard from a fellow Marine who shared the difficulties our men and women in service are encountering as they try to purchase a home, as well as a single mom of three working multiple jobs to no avail. Unfortunately, big government overreach at the local and county levels has limited our housing supply and continues to drive prices up.

*-Senator Sonny Borrelli*





February 3, 2024

## SCHOOL CHOICE IS EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

I came to the legislature in 1994, and what we have in Arizona today was a dream for us back then, when we first started the conversation on school choice. I have seven children and 32 grandchildren. Each grandchild has different needs. I have a granddaughter who is severely autistic. I have some grandchildren who are incredibly brilliant. Some are in public schools, others are in charter schools, and some are homeschooled. I'm grateful my seven children have the freedom here to choose what's best for each individual child and their needs. I shared this message at a press conference with state Superintendent Horne and President Petersen to set the record straight on false information being pushed by Governor Hobbs, Democrats, and teacher unions. Our message: not only do ESAs provide countless opportunities for our youth, they also save taxpayer dollars. State funding for education, including ESAs, currently has a projected \$28 million surplus!



*-Senator David Farnsworth*



## REPUBLICANS SPEARHEAD TEACHER PAY FUND

Two months after Senate Republicans first announced plans to provide teachers with pay raises as part of our Caucus priorities this year to combat inflation, we officially introduced our legislation on the matter this week. I sponsored SCR 1027, and Senator Hoffman introduced SCR 1034. They are both ballot referrals that, if approved by voters, would increase distributions from the State Land Trust Fund to 6.9%, with that money solely directed to providing K-12 public district and charter school teachers with raises of about \$4,000 on average, all without raising taxes. This will increase the average salary to just over \$60,000, which is above the national average. While we appreciate the Governor embracing our idea to use funding from the State Land Trust in this fashion, her proposal of increasing distributions to 8.9% in order to provide money to a variety of other educational initiatives is not a fiscally responsible, realistic, or sustainable move and would detrimentally rob the trust.



*-Senator J.D. Mesnard*





February 3, 2024



## RURAL ARIZONANS FIGHT HOBBS' ABUSE OF POWER

Dozens of generational farmers, ranchers, and land owners from Gila Bend and other parts of rural Arizona converged at the Capitol to speak out against Governor Hobbs' abuse of power on groundwater management. At issue is her Administration's plans to designate Gila Bend Basin as an Active Management Area, which is something no Governor has ever done in the 44 years since the passage of the Groundwater Management Act. Disdain and disrespect for rural Arizona, and especially the agriculture community, have been on full display by the Governor since she first formed her "Water Policy Council," when her administration chose to silence their voices on how to best manage their own aquifers. My bill, SB 1221, represents months of discussions with rural Arizonans from all over the state to create a viable solution for a local groundwater tool. Despicably, the Governor is using fear and intimidation of big government and is threatening their livelihoods.



-Senator Sine Kerr

## DEFENDING ELECTION INTEGRITY

I delivered on a promise this week to initiate legal action against our Secretary of State for attempts to disenfranchise voters and subvert state election laws within the latest edition of the Elections Procedures Manual. Both the Secretary and our Governor have a track record of not following the law. As a result, House Speaker Toma and I filed a lawsuit to protect the integrity of our elections. This reckless EPM opens the door to unlawful activity and undermines the voter confidence measures Republican lawmakers have implemented over the years. We are requesting Maricopa County Superior Court throw out a number of provisions in the EPM, which violate or conflict with current election laws. Some of the more egregious elements include an unlawful attempt to delay implementation of a 2021 state law that helps prevent voter fraud until 2027, as well as allowing people who aren't residents of Arizona to vote in our elections. Read more on this issue [here](#).



-President Warren Petersen



February 3, 2024

## PROMOTING PRO-AMERICAN VALUES IN SCHOOLS

I proudly joined PragerU CEO Marissa Streit, Superintendent Horne, and many of my Republican colleagues for a press conference to announce a new partnership with PragerU that will support teachers and students in Arizona. PragerU is offering free, transparent, truth-based curriculum and supplemental material to teachers and school districts all across our state, which will be accessible through the Arizona Department of Education's website. The lessons PragerU developed are fun, interactive, and entertaining. They'll provide teachers the opportunity to implement content grounded in traditional American values that inspire self-reliance, patriotism, and resiliency. The subjects include civics, life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, Western civilization, and others. This relationship is about setting up Arizona's children for educational success, so that they may become well-rounded adults.



*-Senator Jake Hoffman*

## COMBATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SCAMS

Artificial Intelligence technology is becoming more sophisticated, and criminals are taking advantage of it. Scammers now have the ability to create realistic audio that sounds like the voices of unsuspecting victims' loved ones. Scottsdale resident Jennifer DeStefano testified on Capitol Hill in D.C. last year, shining a light on her disturbing experience with scammers cloning her daughter's voice and demanding \$1 million in ransom. In an effort to prevent this type of fraud from happening to others, I introduced SB 1599 this week, which will establish AI as a weapon, so that there may be legal consequences when this technology is used to commit crimes. I can't imagine getting a call from who I believe is my child that's been kidnapped. That type of encounter has lasting traumatizing effects that impact your sense of security and safety. Unfortunately, this isn't an isolated innocent. Having the legal tools to fight back is absolutely necessary.



*-Senator Justine Wadsack*



February 3, 2024

## ENSURING TREATMENT FOR 'DETRANSITIONERS'

My heart goes out to the growing number of children and young adults struggling with their gender identity who were or will be pushed towards physically altering their bodies as a solution, rather than receive the mental health care they deserve. Although there's a rise in the number of people transitioning, there's also a rise in the amount of people wanting to detransition. I'm sponsoring a bill that would require insurers and providers of gender-altering drugs and surgeries to also provide and cover detransition procedures. My inspiration for this legislation is a young woman named Chloe Cole, who as a child, was pushed by doctors to take puberty blockers and undergo a double mastectomy to change her gender. Although she has since detransitioned, she still lives with the very real pain and struggles from fall out from the so called "gender-affirming care". She joined me at the State Capitol for a press conference this week where she shared her testimony and support for SB 1511.

*-Senator Janae Shamp*



## FIRST REPUBLICAN BILLS TO PASS THE SENATE

We passed our first batch of bills out of the Senate this week, and I'm happy to report my bill, SB 1067, made the cut, with bipartisan support. This bill requires the Department of Child Services to report employees of child welfare agencies contracted by DCS if they're suspected of child abuse. We passed Senator Hoffman's SB 1005 and SB 1014, which aim to stop the Left's attempts at infiltrating financial institutions and entities that use taxpayer dollars with discriminatory and racist ideologies as part of their routine business practices. We passed Senator Rogers' photo radar ban, SB 1003, because we believe their current use is unconstitutional. Senator Kavanaugh's bill, SB 1073, also passed, because protestors should not have the right to block traffic for hours, threatening lives and livelihoods of motorists en route to medical treatment, their jobs, picking up their children from school, etc. These bills, and several others, are now headed to the House for consideration.

*-Senator T.J. Shope*





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

## STAY CONNECTED

[Arizona Legislature: azleg.gov](http://Arizona Legislature: azleg.gov)

[azsenaterepublicans.com](http://azsenaterepublicans.com)

