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Caucus Newsletter

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Arizona State Senate Republican Caucus

Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the Official Arizona Senate Republican Caucus Newsletter! This week, we continued voting out from our chamber a number of Senate bills remaining after “crossover week” and transmitted them to the House for consideration. We also began hearing House bills in Senate committees.





Advocating for Arizona in Washington, D.C.

By President Warren Petersen

I'm preparing to head to Washington, D.C. in the coming days for several meetings with cabinet members of the Trump Administration to discuss key issues important to Arizona that are needing attention from our allies in the federal government. As part of this visit, I'll be meeting with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin to discuss Arizona's gas prices, the state's water security, and air quality concerns. Also on the agenda is a meeting with U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi to discuss litigation the Legislature is engaged in on behalf of the citizens of Arizona, as well as the illegal immigration crisis local law enforcement and Arizona communities are battling. President Trump is leading Arizona and the nation into a golden era of safety and prosperity. His dedication to delivering a commonsense agenda means we can finally eliminate some of the onerous regulations and policies that have strangled our progress and undermined public safety. I'll keep you updated on how the visit goes.



Expanding Health Care Options for Arizonans

By President Pro Tempore T.J. Shope

A bipartisan bill I sponsored to open up opportunities for Arizonans to receive medical tests and treatments at their local pharmacies passed the Senate. [SB 1214](#) is an important step to help ensure Arizonans can receive routine health care services when they need them. The bill allows a pharmacist to independently test for and treat eligible patients for certain medical conditions like covid, influenza, and strep throat. With many Urgent Care facilities now requiring appointments instead of allowing walk-ins, and as patients find themselves waiting days or weeks to get in with primary care physicians, this bill allows our citizens to expand their health care options. It's a win-win for Arizonans and Arizona pharmacies—many of which have qualified men and women who are fully capable of handling these tests and treatments, especially amid a physician shortage. I'm grateful for all the input and support I've received for this legislation, and I look forward to the bill's continuation through the Arizona Legislature.





A Creative Solution to K-12 Classroom Challenges

By Senator David Farnsworth

In an effort to address teacher shortages and provide school district officials with better insight of the day-to-day challenges educators face inside the classroom, I sponsored [SB 1427](#) to require school district administrators lead classroom instruction at least once per year in Arizona's K-12 public schools. This includes school principals, superintendents, business managers, and other full-time employees who provide administrative services to schools. These individuals must have a fingerprint clearance card and must be in good standing, free from disciplinary action, in order to qualify for participation. Administrators can make or break our schools, so it is imperative these individuals have a clear understanding of what is going on in the classroom. They should be directly connected to classroom culture, along with the successes or failures of the students they're tasked with leading, and not out-of-touch with the working conditions teachers face. What better way to ensure this than to require active classroom participation? SB 1427 helps facilitate informed decision-making from administrators while providing a creative solution to help address Arizona's teacher shortage by supplying an untapped crop of substitute teachers who can step up to fill-in when absences occur. I'm thankful this bill passed out of the Senate this week.





Protecting Elections from Foreign Influence

By Senator Shawna Bolick

Senate Republicans are working to secure Arizona's elections with a ballot measure to close a loophole currently leaving our elections process vulnerable and open to influence from foreign actors. SCR 1027 is subject to voter approval and bans foreign funding by prohibiting the use of money or services donated by a foreign source for election purposes. This commonsense, carefully crafted measure prohibits a person, entity, or committee from accepting or using contributions that are made by a foreign national to influence the outcome of a ballot measure. The people of Arizona must be confident that foreign funds are not influencing any part of our elections process. While contributions to political committees have prohibited foreign funds, our current process with election administration and ballot measures are not secure. If the House approves SCR 1027, the people of Arizona will have the chance to vote on this measure on the 2026 ballot to say once and for all - no foreign money in ANY part of our elections in Arizona!



The Fire Insurance Crisis: Cause & Effect

By Senator Mark Finchem

As Senate Federalism & Lands Committee Chairman, I'm inviting homeowners impacted by a recent trend of fire insurance cancelations to join me at the [Senate in hearing room 2](#) on Monday, March 10 at 2 p.m. to share personal testimony and raise awareness on this crisis during a special hearing dedicated to addressing this issue. In recent months, many homeowners living in "fire-prone" areas across the nation, including here in Arizona, have faced the devastating reality of losing their homeowners' insurance coverage. I am urging those who have been impacted by the fire insurance crisis to come to the Senate and make their voices heard as part of our ongoing efforts to evaluate potential legislative solutions to safeguard homeowners. I've heard from too many constituents who have had their insurance cancelled or denied simply because they live in an area at risk of wildfires. Your stories are powerful, and they will help drive the change we need to protect our communities and ensure that insurance is accessible for all Arizonans!



Expanding Civil Liabilities for the Mutilation of Arizona Children

By Majority Leader Janae Shamp

Senate Republicans passed a bill I sponsored to add protections and remedies into state law for children and teens who undergo gender transition procedures then later experience severe consequences into adulthood. We've heard many tragic stories about young boys and girls who have submitted to life-altering procedures to change their gender, only to experience severe repercussions later in life. While Arizona law is clear against these types of procedures, there is more we as lawmakers can do to deter physicians and providers from entertaining any of the illegal and immoral operations that are ravaging our young people. [SB 1586](#) would make a health care professional or physician who provides or provided a minor with a gender transition procedure strictly and personally liable for all costs associated with the subsequent detransition procedures sought by the patient, up to the age of 26. The bill also expands the opportunity for affected individuals, or their legal guardians, to explore civil lawsuits for prior gender transition procedures and injuries caused by these procedures. Additionally, the legislation prohibits a health care professional or physician from seeking a contractual waiver of the liability for gender transition procedures.



Tackling Sober Living Home Fraud

By Majority Whip Frank Carroll

Senate Republicans advanced a bill this week to protect against fraudulent activities surrounding sober living homes that provide a location for individuals to recover from prior substance use disorders. SB 1308 modifies requirements of the Department of Health Services (DHS) relating to the licensing, oversight, and regulation of sober living homes. Currently, many sober living homes are unlicensed and unregulated by the state, leading to a number of fraudulent claims. This bill closes a loophole that is being exploited by fraudsters, as well as protects taxpayer dollars and the vulnerable individuals who reside in these homes across Arizona. For too long, I have heard frightening stories about fraud and abuse at these homes, thanks to the lack of regulation and licensing. This bill puts bad actors on notice and ends the gravy train of taxpayer dollars to those attempting to milk the system for easy money. I'm grateful for all those in support of this proposal and for my colleagues who helped get this bill across the finish line in the Senate.



Confronting Arizona's Mental Health Crisis

By Senator Hildy Angius

Legislation I'm sponsoring to protect the safety of Arizonans and provide services to individuals who the court deems dangerous, severely mentally ill, and incompetent to stand trial, passed the Senate with bipartisan support this week. SB 1604 addresses a significant gap in the state's legal and mental health framework, where dangerous individuals are currently placed into unregulated facilities or released into communities where they pose a significant risk of harming themselves and others. With the current lack of facilities for severely mentally ill individuals, mental health professionals and law enforcement agencies are left with limited options, often resorting to temporary solutions that fail to adequately address the issue at hand. If adopted, SB 1604 will be the safety measure Arizonans so desperately need, ensuring a safer, and more effective process for everyone involved. This legislation ensures that individuals who need intensive mental health care are placed in facilities equipped to address their needs. Arizonans deserve to live in an environment where their safety is not compromised, including those who are severely mentally ill.



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