



May 11, 2024



## EMPOWERING ARIZONANS TO SECURE THE BORDER

The Biden Administration and our Governor have abandoned their duties to protect our citizens from the border crisis and the heinous crimes infiltrating our state. Soon, the people of Arizona will have the opportunity to take matters into their own hands with the *Secure the Border Act*, HCR 2060. We're sending this measure to the ballot so you can make your voices heard in November to safeguard your communities, by classifying illegal border crossings as a state crime that local law enforcement will be able to take action against. We hosted a [press conference highlighting our plan](#), with support from House Republicans, county sheriffs, county prosecutors, and border patrol. HCR 2060 passed out of committee with Democrat legislators irresponsibly voting against it. It'll receive a Senate floor vote next week and a final vote in the House, then it will head to the ballot.



*-President Warren Petersen*

## BY THE NUMBERS: BORDER-RELATED CRIMES

Since Biden took office, it's estimated around 10 million illegal aliens have entered our country from our southwest border. This includes criminals, terrorists, and hundreds of thousands of children who are victims of human and sex trafficking. From 2021 to 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection encountered nearly 300 individuals on the terrorist watchlist. That's a 3,033% increase over the previous three years. These are people who want to murder Americans and destroy our nation. During this same period, the number of unaccompanied minors illegally crossing the southwest border reached over 400,000. Meanwhile, the amount of fentanyl seized at our border has almost tripled, amounting to billions of doses of fentanyl. Half of all fentanyl seized in the U.S. is found in Arizona. Even a single dose can be deadly. One overdose death, one victim of child sex trafficking, one terrorist plotting to destroy America from within our own country, is one too many! This is a crisis, and Republicans at the Arizona Legislature will not ignore these numbers.



*-Senator Janae Shamp*



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## SAVING WATER & TACKLING HOUSING SHORTAGE

Average working-class Arizonans can't afford to purchase homes right now because of supply shortages. The prospect of homeownership has become out of reach for anyone making less than \$120,000. To keep up with demand and bring prices down, economic experts say Arizona needs between 40,000 and 50,000 new homes. Unfortunately, current water policies are preventing new homes from being built in the most affordable markets. This year, legislative Republicans have introduced bills to save groundwater and increase housing supply in the Phoenix metro area. SB 1172 would allow developers to retire agricultural lands outside of cities and replace those lands with lower-water use, single-family homes. HB 2589 would allow developers to move forward with proposed projects, if they are willing to accept a 15% reduction to future demand in pumping. Together, these proposals could save over 320,000 acre feet of water annually. Read more about our legislation in [this op-ed I authored](#) with Rep. Gail Griffin.



-Senator Sine Kerr

## SUPPORTING OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Arizona's law enforcement agencies in rural and border communities are currently understaffed, as they attempt to tackle both border-related crimes and routine calls for service. They should have the ability to call for backup support from law enforcement in neighboring states during emergency situations. States bordering Arizona, like California, have laws allowing Arizona peace officers to aid their law enforcement in emergency situations, but our law enforcement does not have the same ability. My bill, SB 1683, which was just signed into law, will help fix this issue by allowing our law enforcement to invite peace officers from adjoining states to provide their assistance in Arizona when needed, as well as conduct cross-certification. Cross-certified peace officers may exercise all of the powers of Arizona peace officers, if directed by their agency in an emergency situation. According to Coconino County Sheriff Joe Driscoll, lives will be saved because of this new law.



-Senator David Gowan



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## ARIZONA PARENTS HAVE POWER!

The Center for Education Reform released a [national index](#) measuring how much power parents have in each state over their children's academic environments. They evaluated state policies that put students ahead of systems, that value the diversity of need and condition of every family, that provide vital accessible information, and that afford parents power to exercise fundamental decisions on how their kids are educated. I'm so proud to share that Arizona was ranked number two in the nation for parental power, only second to Florida! Our universal school choice program, also known as Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, allows parents to choose the best educational settings for their child, no matter their household income, zip code, or level of academic achievement. We understand what's best for some students, may not be for the same for others, which is why Republicans at the Legislature have fought so hard to protect school choice.



*-Senator Shawna Bolick*



## HONORING ARIZONA'S CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

We celebrated Arizona Correctional Professionals Day at the Capitol this week, and I had the honor of welcoming these public servants at a BBQ lunch by presenting them with a legislative proclamation recognizing their work. Arizona is dedicated to providing reentry and rehabilitation services for incarcerated individuals so that they may become productive citizens contributing to our society after release. Our state's nearly 8,000 correctional officers and security staff are crucial to this mission. Their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and bravery in the face of challenging circumstances is to be commended. They truly demonstrate exceptional commitment to upholding the rule of law, ensuring humane treatment of the incarcerated, and fostering an environment for positive behavioral change. For the past 12 years, I've been honored to represent the men and women working in our private and public correctional facilities in Pinal County. Thank you for your service!



*-Senator T.J. Shope*





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