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Caucus Newsletter

57th Legislature, 1st Regular Session



Arizona State Senate Republican Caucus

Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the Official Arizona Senate Republican Caucus Newsletter! Senate committees are in full swing with House bills being considered, before they're able to head to Rules and Caucus, then onward to the Senate floor for a full vote. The same is happening with Senate bills in the House. The 100th day of session is one month from today.





Deporting Tren De Aragua Terrorists is the Right Call

By President Warren Petersen

President Trump is taking swift action to make America safe again after Biden unleashed chaos by failing to enforce federal immigration laws for four years. I fully support President Trump's efforts to rid our nation of dangerous criminal illegal aliens, which is why I sponsored the AZ ICE Act (SB 1164) to ensure law enforcement cooperates with this critical public safety mission. When the President invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 last weekend, he did so to remove from our country terrorists associated with one of the most violent organizations in the world. The Tren De Aragua gang has invaded our nation. They're raping and murdering Americans, and they are responsible for the heinous killing of Georgia nursing student Laken Riley. Trump campaigned on promises of mass deportations for criminal illegal aliens, and this is a prime example of him using all tools at his disposal to fulfill those promises. Federal judges, and Arizona's own Attorney General, are showing just how out of touch with reality they are by trying to block his agenda that voters overwhelmingly support.



Efforts to Make Arizona Healthy Again!

By Majority Leader Janae Shamp

For those who don't know me, I'm a nurse who got fired for not taking the COVID vaccine two months before the mandate was lifted. I grew up bedside next to a sick parent, and after my mom died, I became a registered nurse. Healthcare is a passion for me, and when that passion was taken, I knew I needed to do something to ensure it didn't happen to anyone else. Healthcare in America has become "sickcare." Before I left the operating room, I started seeing red flags and learned that science is bought and paid for. We have been led astray and need to make sure the government is held accountable. Thank God for President Trump and Secretary Kennedy for this organic movement to stop the weaponization and make America healthy again! I was honored to stand alongside a team of experts who shared their stories at a roundtable discussion to support the healthy movement this week. HB 2164 and HB 2165 both advance the "MAHA" agenda and passed the Senate HHS Committee with strong support!

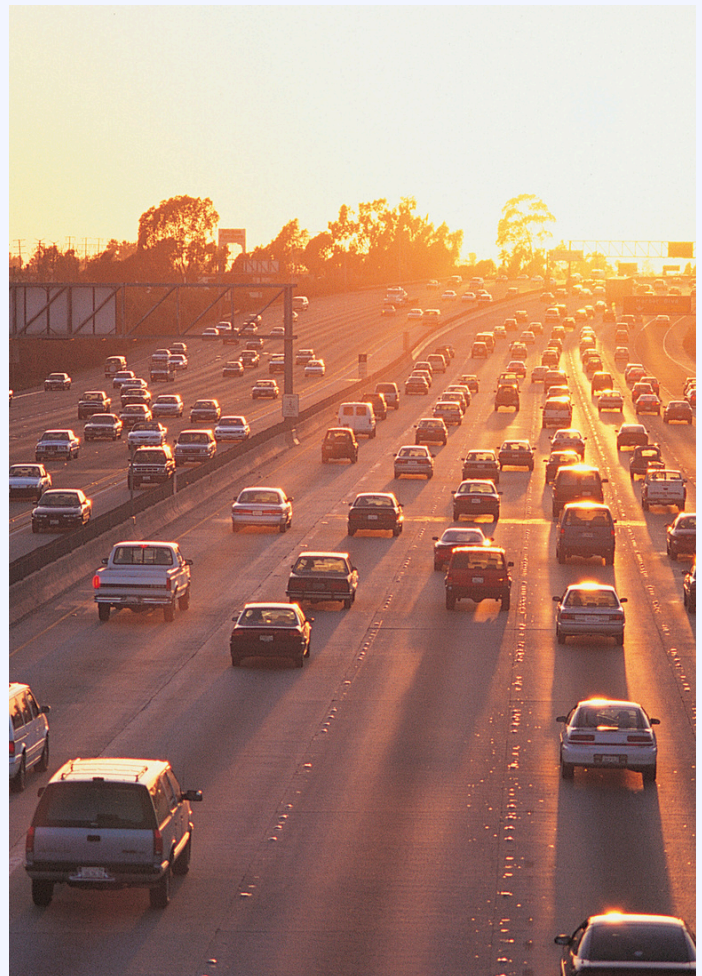




Reducing Harmful Environmental Regulations

By Senator Jake Hoffman

Arizona's economy, driven by industries like energy, mining, agriculture, home building, and manufacturing, faces mounting pressure from stringent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Reforming these rules could unlock growth and ease burdens on businesses while balancing environmental goals. As such, I was honored to host a roundtable discussion at the Senate this week with EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, APS, Honeywell Aerospace, Southwest Gas, SRP, Meritage Homes, Arizona Water Company, and the Arizona Free Enterprise Club to discuss commonsense policy reforms the EPA can make to unlock the full potential of Arizona ingenuity, opportunity, and prosperity. Arizona stands with President Trump's agenda to usher in a golden age of American prosperity, and the EPA, under Administrator Zeldin's leadership, stands as a critical asset in achieving the President's vision. The potential reforms we discussed with Administrator Zeldin could streamline permitting, tailor rules to regional realities- as with transported pollutants in Arizona from neighboring states, and incentivize innovation over penalties. This would bolster competitiveness, attract businesses, and protect jobs, especially in rural areas. Arizona's \$208 million environmental budget shows commitment, but EPA overlap often duplicates efforts. Targeted reform could harmonize federal and state oversight, fostering sustainable growth without sacrificing air or water quality.





Unclaimed Property: How to Collect Your Money

By Senator J.D. Mesnard

A valuable topic was discussed this week in the Senate Finance Committee that I chair, and it has to do with unclaimed property. I don't mean property like buildings or land, but anytime money is owed to you, where companies aren't able to track you down to give you this unclaimed property, it ends up in a repository. Here in the state of Arizona, that repository is at the Department of Revenue. You can check to see if you are owed anything by visiting MissingMoney.com. I promise you; it's not a scam. Search by your name, and the website will scan state databases to let you know if you have any unclaimed property! I did this myself and found that both my wife and I had hundreds of dollars owed to us from various transactions over the years. Once you find property that belongs to you, there's a very easy process to submit a claim, and the money is sent directly to you. I encourage all of you to tell your friends and family to go to MissingMoney.com to see if you have any property that is sitting untouched at the Department of Revenue. Chances are, there is something out there that is owed to you. It might be a small amount, it might be a large amount, but either way, it's worth a couple minutes to see if you are owed some cash! File this under "news you can use."



Addressing Arizona's Doctor Shortage

By Senator Carine Werner

If you've tried to make an appointment with a physician as a new patient, only to be turned away because the office has hit capacity, or if you've been forced to wait months for an appointment, you know firsthand just how serious Arizona's doctor shortage has become. I've sponsored several bills this year to help tackle this problem, and they've passed out of the Senate with near unanimous support. SB 1727 requires medical schools to offer an interview for admissions to Arizona residents who meet all requirements. I've worked with ASU, the U of A, and the Arizona Board of Regents to ensure this proposal can be implemented and will be effective. SB 1623 appropriates \$10 million dollars in one-time funding to allow hospitals to cover the start-up costs of new residencies. This will create 66 new residency spots. Each graduate must complete a residency position before they can independently serve patients. These bills are now in the House where they are awaiting consideration. I'll keep you posted on their progress.



Legislation to Crack Down on Animal Abuse in Arizona Advances to House

By Senator Shawna Bolick

Senate Republicans are working to protect the health and well-being of Arizona's furry, four-legged friends with legislation broadening the conditions under which animal cruelty can be charged. A bipartisan bill I sponsored to strengthen protections for innocent pets from harm, has moved to the House for consideration after passing the Senate. SB 1234 helps protect domestic animals from neglect and abuse by specifying the most basic care required, under state law, which must be provided by pet owners or pet caregivers. This includes food, water, and shelter. The bill also adds penalties for intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly failing to provide medical attention necessary to prevent unreasonable suffering to any domestic animal under the person's custody or control. This legislation sends a strong message that animal cruelty and neglect will not be tolerated in any form in the State of Arizona. These innocent animals are voiceless, but when they suffer, it speaks volumes of the type of individuals we're dealing with who are causing this despicable harm. I applaud both my Republican and Democrat colleagues for their support in passing this bill out of the Senate, and I call on the House to do the same, for the sake of the millions of animal lovers, and vulnerable pets, in Arizona.





NIL Protections for College Athletes

By President Pro Tempore T.J. Shope

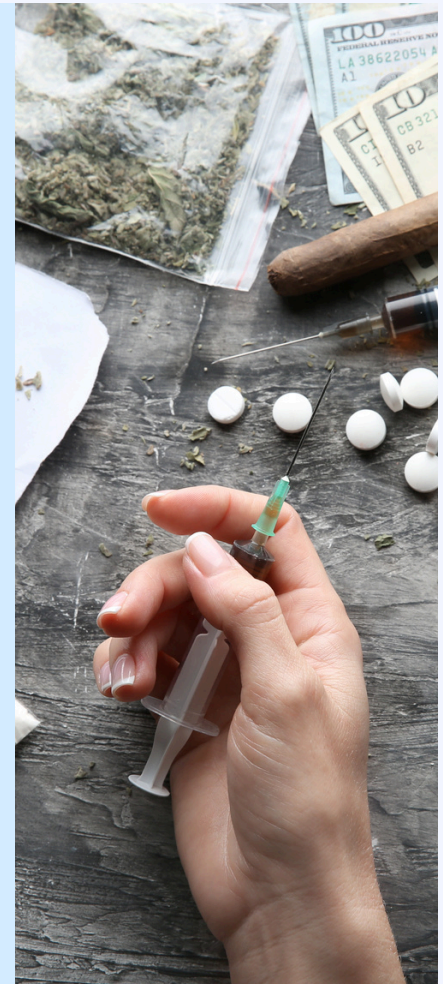
Bipartisan legislation establishing protections for college athletes with name, image, likeness deals is being considered by the House after receiving near unanimous support in the Senate! I sponsored [SB 1615](#) to outline prohibitions and requirements on regulators, student athletes, and postsecondary education institutions relating to the use of a student athlete's own name, image, and likeness (NIL). These arrangements, made with individual college athletes across the various NCAA sports, allow them to profit from their name, image, and likeness through business deals with interested sponsors. Just like our universities, the State of Arizona is committed to finding innovative ways to address the complex cloud of questions surrounding the newly created NIL system in college athletics. I am proud of our continued work to make Arizona's universities the very best in the nation, and I am hopeful that this bill will give these schools the tools they require to win many championships for our beloved state!



Tackling Criminal Activity Involving Drug Addicts

By Senator Vince Leach

We have a serious problem in the Tucson area, where drug addicts hooked on fentanyl or meth are committing destructive crimes while under the influence. They're in and out of our jails and behavioral health centers without a pathway forward to end this dangerous cycle. The crisis is turning our communities upside down, and it's time to take action. I'm happy to report a commonsense bill I sponsored to address this issue is awaiting consideration in the House after passing out of the Senate with bipartisan support this month. SB 1257 is an optional program that essentially provides these addicts, who've been picked up by law enforcement and dropped off at crisis centers, five days to sober up before they can voluntarily leave, as opposed to the standard 24-hour timeframe. Why five days? Medical experts agree it takes longer than one day for the drugs to leave a person's system, and five days is the standard for those who've used meth. With a sober mind, these individuals have a better chance at making their own decisions to take control of their lives in a productive manner.



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