



December 2, 2023

## HOBBS MUST DEPLOY THE NATIONAL GUARD

Biden's border crisis continues to devastate Arizonans, as U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials announced plans to close the Lukeville Port of Entry to traffic this upcoming Monday in order to provide adequate resources to respond to the invasion of illegals along our southern border. This closure will detrimentally impact those vacationing in the popular beach town of Puerto Peñasco, stripping commuters of a safe and direct route back into Arizona. I'm calling on Governor Hobbs to use her executive power for the safety of our citizens by deploying Arizona National Guard resources to the border to help alleviate the overwhelmed law enforcement currently battling this crisis. Forcing Arizonans to travel hours out of their way on routes vulnerable to cartel organizations, terrorists, and other criminals seeking to do harm is completely unacceptable. I encourage our Arizona congressional delegation to demand this decision is reversed. *-Senator T.J. Shope*



## PROTECTING FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

We held another eye-opening committee hearing this week to investigate Arizona State University's role in the attempted censorship of an event this past February featuring conservative speakers on campus. We heard from the main donor of the T.W. Lewis Center, who pulled his funding and terminated the center over ASU's handling of the event. Testimony revealed reoccurring themes of condemnation of conservative views, student intimidation, punishing organizers behind the scenes, and discrimination based on religious beliefs. There was discussion about potential funding cuts to ASU, as well as the Arizona Board of Regents for their lack of action. Democrats appointed to the committee showcased their lack of concern by skipping out on their obligation to serve on this panel. Democrats want conservative voices silenced. This is a dangerous precedent to set. We are planning our next hearing for early January. *-Senator Anthony Kern*





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## REMEMBERING SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Our Caucus is sharing heartfelt condolences on the passing this week of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. This icon grew up in southeastern Arizona and was an impactful conservative who displayed the epitome of a hardworking public servant and a dedicated mother. She inspired many women to pursue leadership roles within the legislative and judicial branches of government. She was a trailblazer who broke barriers throughout her career, becoming the first woman to serve as Majority Leader for Republicans at the Arizona State Senate back in 1972 and setting the stage for others to follow in her footsteps. The example she set on civil discourse is to be admired. We're saddened by her passing, and we send prayers to her family, but we take comfort in knowing she'll have lasting positive impacts on our state and nation for generations to come.



*-President Warren Petersen*

## KAYLEIGH'S LAW: 1 YEAR LATER

It's been one year since Kayleigh's Law took effect. I was the proud sponsor of this legislation that received bipartisan support back in 2022. The law allows for victims of dangerous crimes to obtain lifetime injunctions against their abusers. The namesake, inspiration, and prime advocate for this legislation is Kayleigh Kozak. As a victim of sexual abuse herself, she's turned her painful experience into meaningful change for survivors suffering through similar heart-wrenching situations. Over the past year, Kayleigh's Law has provided more than a thousand victims of sexual assault and other atrocities added protections from their abusers. Arizona became the first state in the nation to pass reform like this, and I know Kayleigh is working to bring these protections to other states across the nation. As lawmakers, it is our obligation to do everything in our power to protect survivors from further victimization.



*-Senator Sine Kerr*



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## HOBBS' HASTY PRISON CLOSURE

This week, Governor Hobbs announced the closure of Arizona State Prison – Marana at the end of the year. I strongly believe this is insufficient notice for its correctional officers and support staff who are forced to uproot their lives, creating financial strain during the Christmas season. For nearly 30 years, ASP—Marana has been a positive aspect of the community. Through its educational and rehabilitation programs, as well as community services, the facility has helped both inmates and Marana residents. Shame on our Governor for giving them only a few weeks' notice around the holidays. Although employees will have opportunities to transfer to another facility, many do not have the resources or financial means to relocate or make the long commute. My heart goes out to all the families who are impacted by how poorly this move was implemented. I'd also like to know what the plan is moving forward for the state-owned building that housed this facility.



*-Senator Justine Wadsack*



## MENTORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

The YMCA held their 76th Youth in Government Model Legislation Conference here at the State Capitol on Friday. The conference included over 250 middle and high school students who had the opportunity to debate bills, discuss constitutional law, and tour the chambers. I had the honor of speaking at the event and was presented with an award for Legislator of the Year from the Arizona Alliance of YMCAs. This last legislative session, I made sure we allocated money in our state budget to go towards civics education and leadership development extracurricular programs. It's important that our youth has access to hands on learning opportunities like Friday's conference. We live in a great state and in a great nation, but it requires everyone to do their part to keep it that way, and to keep it the way our founding fathers intended it to be- free. I want to make sure we can hand it over to future generations who are equipped to carry the torch.



*-Senator David Gowan*





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