



February 1, 2025

## WORKING TO LOWER HOUSING PRICES

The Governor made a huge mistake by vetoing bipartisan legislation last year aimed at helping Arizonans achieve their American dream of homeownership. Overregulation of homebuilding by cities and towns has contributed to the skyrocketing prices prospective buyers are currently encountering. As a result, many young families and our working-class citizens have been priced out of the market. I've teamed up with Rep. Biasiucci to again introduce the Arizona Starter Homes Act this session, and we hosted a press conference this week after the House version of the bill passed out of committee. SB 1229/HB 2371 is a starting point to increase affordable housing for first time home buyers in Arizona. The legislation would legalize small homes on small lots and would allow homebuyers to choose how they want their home to look, not some government bureaucrat. I look forward to the Senate version of this bill passing out of committee next week. Stay tuned!



*-Senator Shawna Bolick*



## TACKLING INFLATION ON UTILITIES

A bill I'm championing to fight inflation on energy passed out of committee this week and continues its journey through the Legislature. The Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO) was created by the Legislature to advocate for the interests of consumers. SB 1119 requires RUCO to focus its efforts on fighting for the safest and most reliable utility service achievable at the lowest retail rate possible, rather than any radical environmentalist agenda priorities. This bill will help ensure your consumer watchdog is solely focused on protecting hardworking citizens from skyrocketing electric, gas, water, and wastewater costs. I am taking a stand for your pocketbooks and will remain committed to keeping the momentum going to make sure your voice is heard in the fight to deliver the low rates that utilities seek to deliver. All Senate Democrats present in this committee sadly voted against this commonsense consumer protection measure.



*-Senator Tim Dunn*





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## PROTECTING ARIZONANS FROM CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS

The Trump Administration is vigorously working to remove criminal illegal aliens from our country, and I've introduced a new bill this week to aid in the effort. [SB 1294](#) would allow the federal government to lease for \$1 per year the Marana Prison in Pima County for Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to use as a holding and processing center for individuals awaiting deportation. This building has been sitting empty since 2023 and could hold up to 1000 people if more beds are added. Under the proposal, if the prison ends up being needed for Arizona prisoners, the state would be able to terminate the lease with the federal government. The location of this facility is an ideal place to house criminal illegal aliens because of its close proximity to the border and nearby airports. I believe this commonsense bill will receive bipartisan support. However, if the Governor chooses to veto it, and if the federal government wants to use the facility, I plan to send the measure to the ballot.



*-Senator John Kavanagh*

## SAFEGUARDING ARIZONA FROM ENEMY NATIONS

I'm pleased to share a bill I introduced to protect Arizona's land and housing from entities tied to nations that are known adversaries to the United States passed through Federalism committee this week. While our state continues to suffer from an ongoing housing crisis where hardworking Arizonans have been priced out of the market, an alarming trend has developed. Foreign entities from adversary nations are currently purchasing our real estate. SB 1066 will ensure foreign entities cannot freely acquire land in Arizona without prior authorization from the Legislature. Hostile foreign entities will be required to submit identification to the Department of Real Estate and undergo the legislative approval process prior to purchasing land in Arizona. This bill is essential for safeguarding Arizona citizens. It also puts Arizonans first, especially during this housing shortage. While this seems like a commonsense security measure, all Senate Democrats in committee voted against it.



*-Senator Mark Finchem*



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## INVESTIGATING SCHOOL DISTRICT'S INAPPROPRIATE SPENDING

I'm deeply troubled by a massive financial crisis that has unfolded within one of Phoenix's public school districts. Approximately \$20 million has gone unaccounted for by administrators within Isaac Elementary School District, which services nearly 5000 students. This is not an issue of a district not having enough money to pay bills and educate students. This district receives more than \$19,000 in funding per student. There is a great potential that fraud, abuse, and criminal activity may have occurred. We are committed to getting to the bottom of this corruption or gross negligence. We are working diligently to create a lawful solution that will allow teachers to be paid and will keep any classroom disruptions to a minimum for students and families, while also establishing reforms so that a similar crisis does not unfold in the future with any other school districts within the state of Arizona. We are also working to ensure those responsible for the loss of funding are held accountable.



-Senator David Farnsworth

## CELEBRATING SCHOOL CHOICE AT THE CAPITOL

This week at the Legislature we celebrated National School Choice Week with excitement and pride as we continue to protect the rights of parents to choose the best educational path for their children. The celebration began with a powerful proclamation led by Senator Bolick on the Senate floor and was capped off by an inspiring rally, where I had the privilege of joining local Catholic schools to show our support for empowering families to use their education tax dollars on their preferred schools. The beauty of Arizona is that parents have the freedom to send their child to any school of their choosing, regardless of their income or zip code. Protecting parental rights will remain a top priority of mine. Arizona's school choice program is wildly popular. So much so that it has rapidly grown since its expansion in 2022, with now 85,000 students participating. This week was a great reminder that together, we are not just celebrating a movement - we are building a better future where every student has the opportunity to thrive!



-Senator T.J. Shope



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## FIGHTING TO PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM TO MOVE

There is nothing more insidious than government trying to limit or control their citizens' freedom, especially when it comes to something as fundamental as the freedom to travel, to move, and to go about your business as you see fit. San Diego is a perfect example of this gross overreach, where bureaucrats recently attempted to implement a mileage tax to force their residents to travel by mass transit, instead of using their own personal vehicles. Buses, light rails, and other public transportation options are not the modes of travel the majority of Americans choose. I introduced SB 1092 to prevent this government overreach here at home. The bill aims to prohibit any government entity within the state of Arizona from tracking or taxing the miles that you travel. Government forcing our citizens to choose alternate behaviors they would not normally select is pure evil, but the Left completely supports this ideology. SB 1092 passed out of Government Committee this week with only Republican support. -Senator Jake Hoffman



## RESTORING FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

I introduced a ballot measure this week that restores fiscal accountability, halts government overreach, and protects taxpayers from unauthorized financial obligations. SCR 1009 removes an exception from the Arizona constitution that allows government bureaucrats to assess uncapped fees without first getting a two-thirds vote from the Legislature. In 1992, voters approved Prop. 108 to safeguard Arizonans from one of the most widely abused government powers, the power to tax. It amended the constitution to require a two-thirds supermajority vote of the Legislature to increase taxes, fees, and assessments. However, Prop. 108 provided an exception to the supermajority requirement for fees assessed by state officers or agencies. SCR 1009 would put a stop to a gross manipulation of Prop. 108 and the financial strain it has so far caused Arizona citizens. This measure ensures state government is not permitted to make major financial decisions without first getting approval of two-thirds of the Legislature. -Senator J.D. Mesnard





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