

— May 17, 2025 —

# Caucus Newsletter

*57th Legislature, 1st Regular Session*



## Arizona State Senate Republican Caucus

### Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the Official Arizona Senate Republican Caucus Newsletter! So far, 214 bills have been signed into law, while 138 have been vetoed. We have just a handful of bills left needing more work before final votes can occur. The Senate remains adjourned from floor proceedings while committee hearings and budget negotiations are ongoing.







# Hobbs Protects Criminal Illegal Aliens from Deportations

By Senator Jake Hoffman

Arizonans have long suffered under the callous and inhumane open-border policies promoted and enforced by Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Alejandro Mayorkas, and Katie Hobbs. While the Trump Administration works around the clock to reverse those harms and protect our communities from the perils of criminal illegal aliens, Hobbs continues to obstruct these efforts and endanger the citizens she supposedly serves in Arizona. This week, she vetoed a bill I sponsored that would have helped align local and federal government officials with their critical law enforcement duties. SB 1088 would have required local, county, and state governments, as well as any independent contractors associated with these levels of government, to comply with all federal laws, rules, regulations, and orders pertaining to immigration and deportation. The bill mandated cooperation with U.S. Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Earlier this spring, Hobbs vetoed other significant border-related proposals sponsored by Senate Republicans. SB 1610 would have required county detention facilities to, on request of ICE, provide the personal identifying information of and access to individuals arrested for burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, or any other offense that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person. SB 1164, the AZ ICE Act, would have prohibited state government entities from adopting or enforcing any policies that block or restrict law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Sadly, Hobbs remains committed to her radical ideology of open borders and appeasement for cartels.





## Hobbs Vetoes Healthcare Transparency Measure

By Senator Wendy Rogers

Governor Hobbs' veto of SB 1268 is a slap in the face to Arizona taxpayers who are demanding accountability and transparency from state government. I sponsored this bill to shine a light on the cost of government-funded healthcare for illegal aliens. A Congressional Budget Office [report](#) released last October reveals \$27 billion in federal and state dollars was spent on Emergency Medicaid for illegal aliens between FY 2017 and FY 2023. SB 1268 would have required hospitals to include a section on their patient admission form giving individuals the option to indicate whether they are lawfully present in the United States. The admission form would have included a statement assuring patients that their response would not affect the care they receive, nor would they be reported to immigration authorities. Our hardworking, law-abiding citizens have a right to know how much of their money is going towards paying for the medical services of those who've willfully chosen to break our laws by entering our country illegally. The state's Medicaid program is intended to help vulnerable Americans. Unfortunately, these taxpayer-funded healthcare benefits are being abused and have created an incentive for illegal immigration.



## Radical Hobbs Kills Commonsense Legislation

By Senator John Kavanagh

Governor Katie Hobbs is showing just how radical she really is after vetoing two of my bills requiring schools to inform parents when using pronouns opposite of a child's biological sex, as well as protecting girls' private spaces on campus from male intrusion. SB 1002 would have prohibited a public-school employee from knowingly addressing a student under the age of 18 by a pronoun that differs from the one that aligns with the student's biological sex, or a first name that is not listed on the student's official school records, without parental permission. SB 1003 would have limited access to public school restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and hotel rooms on overnight school trips to students of the same biological sex and require public schools to provide access to a single-occupancy restroom or changing facility for students who don't feel comfortable using facilities that match their biological sex. Hobbs continues to push 'gender neutrality' as a way to win votes from her extremist liberal community at the expense of exposing vulnerable children to sexual violence. The fact that these bills were vetoed proves just how little Hobbs cares for the development of our youth and how radical she is for Arizona.







## Senate Republicans Back the Blue

*By President Warren Petersen*

As we wrap up National Police Week, I want to take a moment to recognize the men and women in law enforcement who selflessly serve Arizona's communities and safeguard our citizens from criminal activity. Police officers put their lives on the line every single day. Their families never know what dangers they'll face once they clock-in and whether they'll return home safe and sound at the end of their shift. Because of their service and sacrifice, we can enjoy our God-given freedoms in every walk of life. For these reasons, the men and women behind the badge have our eternal gratitude. Senate Republicans have taken strategic actions over the past several years to support our law enforcement in multiple ways. Recently, I advocated for the disturbingly biased and outright factually inaccurate report against the Phoenix Police Department to be rescinded by the US Department of Justice, and thankfully, President Trump issued an executive order reversing the DOJ's stranglehold of local police departments around the country. Additionally, last November, voters overwhelmingly approved a measure sponsored by Senate Republicans creating a State Death Benefit of \$250,000 to be paid to the family of first responders killed in the line of duty. It also increases criminal penalties for assaulting first responders. More recently, we championed a bill that was signed into law this week to allow part-time officers to participate in the pension program known as PSPRS. Republicans will always back the blue!





# Preventing Drug-Related Deaths in Arizona

By Senator Carine Werner

Drug dealers are beginning to sell nitazenes in communities across Arizona. These synthetic drugs are considered much more powerful than fentanyl. A Scottsdale teen died in 2024 after taking a pill cut with protonitazene, which is three times more potent than fentanyl alone and 150 times stronger than heroin. This drug is so dangerous, the Food and Drug Administration never approved it, as it has no medically accepted uses. In response to this deadly trend that is now sweeping the nation, I sponsored SB 1622, and I'm pleased to report the bill was signed into law this week. Eight synthetic opioids will soon be added to the list of controlled substances, under the definition of *narcotic drugs*, bringing state law in line with federal law. It is illegal to knowingly possess, use, manufacture, transport, or sell narcotic drugs. Penalties range from a class 4 felony to a class 2 felony, in addition to enhanced punishments and mandatory prison time when certain conditions are met. We must take action to prevent unsuspecting victims from senselessly losing their lives to opioid overdoses, and SB 1622 is a step in the right direction. I'm grateful for the support this bill received from both Republicans and Democrats alike.



## Emily Pike's Tragic Murder Sparks Legislative Probe

By Hildy Angius

I was honored to serve as a member of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the Department of Child Safety (DCS) this week as a bipartisan group of lawmakers, led by Committee Chair Werner, investigated the series of events that transpired just before the senseless murder of 14-year-old Emily Pike. Her remains were discovered in a trash bag along the side of a road after she ran away from her state-licensed group home back in January. We heard eye-opening testimony from law enforcement, the DCS Director, tribal council members and representatives from their social services departments, as well as Emily's family. We came to realize that the system failed Emily every step of the way. No child should ever go through what Emily went through, and we want to ensure that moving forward, the safety and security of vulnerable children under the care of state-licensed facilities will be strengthened as a result of this tragedy. Emily's death will not be in vain. We will be scheduling stakeholder meetings in the coming weeks and months to evaluate potential procedure changes and policy adoptions for state-licensed group homes, as well as potential new legislation in the 2026 session.





## Working to Protect Civil Rights of Arizona Children

By Senator Mark Finchem

Hobbs callously vetoed legislation that would have protected the safety and civil rights of children in Arizona's family court system. This commonsense measure would have safeguarded Arizona's vulnerable youth from the horrors of court-ordered reunification programs and the financial burdens they pose on parents after divorce proceedings. It is unconscionable that the governor chose to uphold a system that silences victims, strips them of their rights, and allows for abuse under the guise of justice. With the adoption of my strike everything amendment on HB 2256, sponsored by Representative Rachel Keshel, the bill would have prohibited a court from ordering payment, without the appropriate party's consent, for therapeutic intervention in specified proceedings. Parents are bankrupt. Children are being raped, abused, and mutilated. However, the so-called unlicensed therapeutic interventionists are reaping benefits off the continuous abuse and flow of money through the family court system. You'd think after the family court committee this week, where hundreds of people attended and 1,200 people viewed online, Hobbs would realize the significance of this crisis impacting children and think twice before vetoing the bill. With Hobbs being a social worker herself, and someone who was a member of the Domestic Relations Committee at the state courts, I'd expect more from her. It is clear her veto action protects the profit motive and self-dealing facilitated by family court orders.







## New Law Strengthens National Security

By Senator JD Mesnard

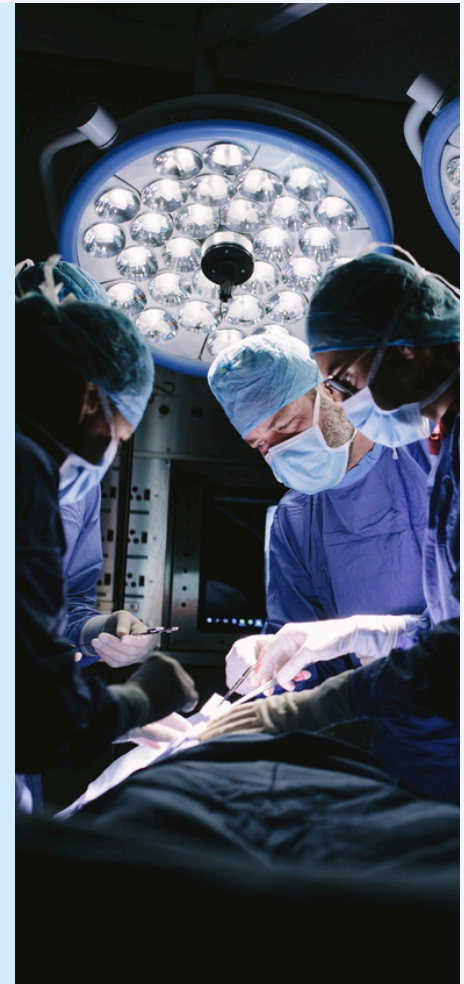
When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, pension funds and other institutional investors who were holding Russian equities lost enormous amounts of money because they were forced to divest when those entities were sanctioned. In the event a conflict with China arises and sanctions are imposed, we don't want Arizona to experience a similar crisis, especially with investments made through the state employee pension system. As a result, I'm pleased to report legislation I sponsored to address this concern was just signed into law this week. SB 1221 prohibits publicly managed funds from holding investments in China, the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese military, and any company owned or headquartered within China or controlled by the Chinese government. It is imperative that we do what we can to make our country safe from foreign adversaries who attempt to use our open society and political system to weaken us from within, and China has been the leading perpetrator of many of our national security concerns. I'm relieved we're safeguarding these resources from international threats.



## Hobbs Blocks Protections For Detrimental Surgeries

By Majority Leader Janae Shamp

To no surprise, Governor Katie Hobbs vetoed my bill that added protections and remedies into state law for children and teens who undergo gender transition procedures but later suffer severe consequences into adulthood. SB 1586 would have made 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 26 years of age. The bill also expanded the opportunity for affected individuals – or their legal guardians – to explore civil lawsuits for prior gender transition procedures and injuries caused by these procedures. Hobbs continues to show her allegiance to radical left-wing ideology by turning a blind eye to the serious harm being inflicted on innocent and impressionable boys and girls through gender transition treatments and procedures. We will continue to fight on behalf of our precious sons and daughters until these inhumane and ungodly practices are abolished.





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Senator Janae Shamp