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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! Most Senate committee hearings have wrapped up for the legislative session. We are now in the process of voting House bills out of our chamber, and the House is doing the same with Senate bills. Meanwhile, budget negotiations are currently underway.

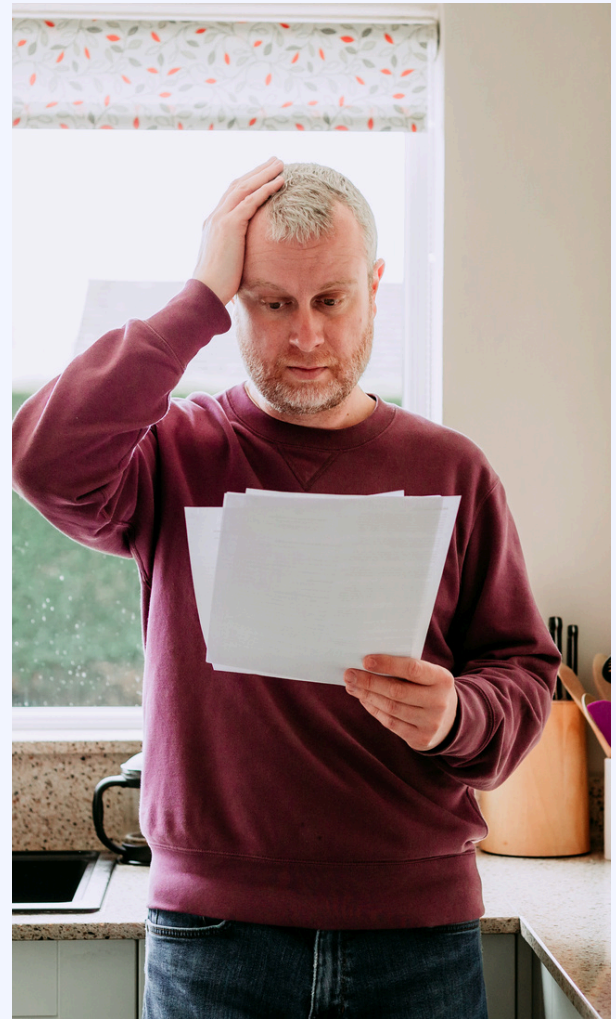




Hobbs Vetoes Bill to Protect Arizonans from Utility Rate Hikes

By Senator Tim Dunn

A top priority for Senate Republicans is to alleviate financial burdens for Arizona families where we can. Prices on just about every basic necessity skyrocketed during the Biden Administration, from gas, to food, medication, electricity, and housing. Unfortunately, wages have not kept up with this inflation, and it will likely take some time for President Trump to undo the damage left behind from the prior administration. As a result, many hardworking Arizonans continue to live paycheck to paycheck. Retirees living on fixed incomes are barely making ends meet. Unfortunately, Governor Katie Hobbs seems to be blind to this reality. This week, she irresponsibly vetoed a bill I sponsored that would have ensured Arizonans are provided with reliable and affordable utility services. SB 1119 would have required the Residential Utility Consumer Office to focus its efforts on fighting for the safest and most reliable utility service achievable at the cheapest retail rate possible, instead of prioritizing any costly radical environmentalist agendas. This bill would have helped ensure your consumer watchdog is solely focused on protecting our hardworking citizens from rising electric, gas, water, and wastewater costs. This was a missed opportunity to advocate for our citizens, and a short-sighted veto that will only hurt the pocketbooks of Arizonans. In her letter explaining why she killed SB 1119, she described the legislation as “unnecessary.” Our citizens expect us to do everything in our power to ensure they keep more of their hard-earned dollars, not to maintain status quo. Needless to say, I’m surprised and disappointed by her decision.





Bill to Hold Pedophiles Accountable Heads to Gov

By Senator Carine Werner

A bill to crack down on sexual predators in Arizona schools is headed to the Governor for her signature after passing the Legislature with bipartisan support this week. I introduced SB 1437 in response to numerous disturbing events that came to light during my service as a governing board member. The bill ensures sexual predators are held accountable for victimizing children. SB 1437 adds school district governing board members and charter school governing body members, as well as substitute teachers, and school safety officers, to the list of individuals who are required to report to a law enforcement agency any cases of sexual misconduct by a school employee. It is imperative that we work together to protect children and take action against sexual predators who are abusing their trusted positions and flying under the radar in schools. I applaud my colleagues in both chambers for getting this bill to the finish line. The people of Arizona are relying on us to implement laws to better protect our most vulnerable communities, and there's no better way to deliver on this promise, than for the governor to sign this bill and support the effort.



Advocating for Patients' Rights

By Majority Leader Janae Shamp

A medical milestone was reached at the legislature this week! A bill to protect patients' rights was transmitted to the governor for signature, after passing the Senate with only Republican support. HB 2012, sponsored by Rep. Kupper, prohibits an employer, government entity, or healthcare entity from requiring the administration of an emergency use product. This legislation was created in response to the large number of concerns that were raised during the COVID-19 pandemic, including Rep. Kupper's personal experience of nearly being removed from the Air Force for not taking the vaccine. During the mandate, many Arizonans felt coerced into receiving vaccines that only received emergency use authorization, after little to no scientific research about its effectiveness. This bill ensures that families and individuals have the right to make healthcare decisions without being forced to use emergency use products. Coming from the nurse who was fired for not taking the COVID vaccine, I am elated to see this bill receive the support it did and be one of the first several bills to make it to the governor for signature.





Senate Bills Signed Into Law This Week

By President Pro Tempore T.J. Shope

I'm happy to report about a dozen Senate bills were signed into law this week, covering a variety of issues impacting Arizona. Among them was a bill I sponsored, SB 1124, to help address the shortage of dental hygienists in our state. Our growing population demands more professionals in this field. The bill expands the scope of practice for oral preventative assistants, allowing them to perform some routine cleaning techniques on patients after receiving training and only under the direct supervision of a dentist or dental hygienist. SB 1104, sponsored by Senator Bolick, adds on to legislation signed last year to help crime victims receive the records and any video recordings pertaining to their case, free of charge. SB 1159, sponsored by Senator Gowan, helps subcontractors, who are not paid by an employer the money they're due for their work, avoid a tedious court battle by increasing the cap for filing an unpaid wage claim with the Industrial Commission of Arizona from \$5000 to \$12000. I anticipate some of our bigger, headliner bills, like my ag-to-urban legislation, the Arizona Starter Homes Act, and the Arizona ICE Act, to make their way to the Governor's desk in the next month or two. Stay tuned for more updates!

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To Speak

Senator Janae