

— April 26, 2025 —

Caucus Newsletter

57th Legislature, 1st Regular Session



Arizona State Senate Republican Caucus

Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the Official Arizona Senate Republican Caucus Newsletter! We just passed the 100th day of session. 93 bills have so far been signed into law, and 52 have been vetoed. There are dozens of bills still outstanding, while work on the state budget continues. A budget must be signed before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.





Governor Hobbs Irresponsibly Vetoes AZ ICE Act

By President Warren Petersen

The Governor irresponsibly vetoed commonsense legislation once again to protect Arizona communities from dangerous criminal illegal aliens. The AZ ICE Act (SB 1164) was the product of Arizona's Republican lawmakers and law enforcement to help safeguard our citizens. We are not talking about individuals simply here illegally to work and support their families. Gang members, child sex traffickers, murderers, rapists, drug dealers, human smugglers, and terrorists were allowed to freely walk across our borders into the United States under the Biden Administration. When President Trump entered office, he put a stop to this madness and is now removing these violent criminals. On Opening Day of the Arizona Legislature this year, the Governor said "safe communities are a core pillar of the 'Arizona Promise' and why I've made border security a top priority." Last year, on that same day, she said "I pledged to not play the same old political games that created this crisis." These are just empty promises from another politician who has chosen to play political games with the safety and security of our state. The AZ ICE Act would have required law enforcement to comply with immigration detainer requests, so that these dangerous criminals would not be released back on the streets. The bill also prohibited government entities in Arizona from obstructing federal efforts to detain and remove criminal illegal aliens from our communities. Senate Republicans will discuss in the coming months whether to put this measure on the ballot for voters to decide in November 2026. Arizonans spoke loud and clear during the last election when they overwhelmingly approved the Secure the Border Act (Prop. 314). Their message clearly fell on deaf ears in the Executive Tower.





Hobbs Jeopardizes National Security

By Senator Wendy Rogers

Governor Hobbs is jeopardizing state and national security with her recent veto of SB 1027, which would have protected our critical infrastructure from Chinese threats. The bill stemmed from a 2022 FBI report that determined Chinese-made Huawei radio equipment, sold below the price of production and used throughout the United States within communications infrastructure, was able to provide the Communist Party of China access to domestic intelligence for espionage and sabotage attacks against Americans. Her veto shows just how radical she really is, when similar legislation in Nebraska was introduced by a Democrat senator in 2023, received unanimous bipartisan support at their state legislature, and was ultimately signed into law. I'm hopeful the citizens of Arizona are paying attention to her destructive agenda, from vetoing important border security legislation and bills safeguarding our energy supply, to now this latest shameful action against SB 1027. Arizona is in danger, and the security of our nation is on the line, so long as Hobbs occupies the Governor's office.

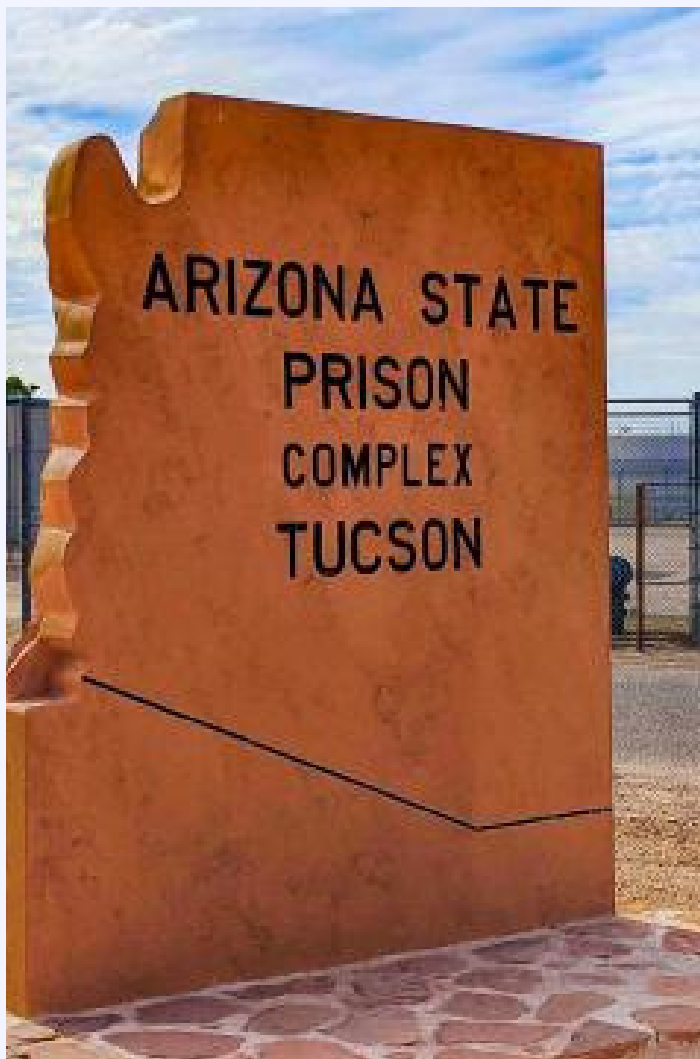


Legislation to Address Fraud, Abuse Gets Vetoed

By Senator John Kavanagh

Governor Hobbs recklessly vetoed my legislation this week that would have provided Arizona's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) with proper oversight to prevent fraud and ensure the program is being used as intended. SB 1071 would have required monthly evaluations of eligibility requirements for participants. This includes verification of employment records, income amounts, and job search activity. This was a commonsense measure to help safeguard the hard-earned dollars of Arizona's taxpayers from fraud, waste, and abuse. The Governor choosing to veto this bill sends a strong message to our citizens that she cares more about maintaining a broken system that is widely abused by bad actors, than providing guardrails to protect resources for those who actually need them. I am extremely disappointed, but not surprised, that she continues to choose to appeal to the radical left with her tone-deaf veto decisions rather than support legislation to ensure fiscal responsibility of public funds.





Investigating Inmate Murders, Officer Safety at ADCRR

By Senator Kevin Payne

In response to the murder of three inmates during a 24-hour period at the Arizona State Prison Complex in Tucson earlier this month, I'm launching a probe of the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry (ADCRR). I sent a letter this week to Director Ryan Thornell requesting a timeline of events, reports, policy changes, staffing levels, staffing rosters, and other pertinent information surrounding the case be provided to the Senate by May 1. These details will be used in determining next steps to ensure a similar situation never occurs again within the State of Arizona. What transpired within this prison is inexcusable and incredibly troubling. I fear for the lives of the correctional officers and staff who are reporting to duty every day and risking their safety in a facility that has proven it cannot prevent dangerous criminals from inflicting violence. Director Thornell has some explaining to do, and the more time that passes by before we can determine the missteps that lead to these murders, the longer our law enforcement will be in danger of losing their own lives at the hands of inmates. My prayers go out to the families of the individuals who were murdered. The system failed them. We must take action now to prevent the next crisis from unfolding.



Hobbs Supports Radical DEI Hiring Practices

By Majority Leader Janae Shamp

Governor Hobbs is supporting discriminatory hiring practices within the State of Arizona by vetoing my legislation this week, which would have banned preferential treatment provided to applicants based on sex, race, skin color, and sexuality instead of qualifications, experience, and competence. SB 1584 would have prohibited state government, and any political subdivisions, from establishing hiring policies that prioritize Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI). This means employers would be prohibited from using tax dollars to implement radical DEI programs in job postings, required trainings, or any manner that would deprive an individual from an employment opportunity when their skin color, sex, sexual preference, or race doesn't meet an employer's preference. The Governor vetoing this bill demonstrates her support for discrimination and a lack of leadership for refusing to push back against fellow Democrats who support these unethical hiring practices. It's truly petrifying that we have a governor who can, without shame, prioritize discrimination and favoritism, over unity and respect for every Arizonan.



Caring for Children with Developmental Disabilities

By Senator Carine Werner

Lawmakers at the State Capitol came together this week to solve a \$122 million funding shortfall that would have detrimentally impacted tens of thousands of families with children of the developmentally disabled community. I joined my colleagues and voted in support of HB 2945, which is the product of bipartisan negotiations, to provide parents with resources and certainty to ensure they have the support they need as they navigate the difficulties of caring for children who have autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other cognitive disabilities. The bill also creates guardrails, provides transparency, accountability, and ensures integrity in the program. Arizona has a shortage of qualified caregivers, so the Parents as Paid Caregivers Program allows parents to be trained and paid to provide their kids extensive in-home, lifesaving care, outside of typical parenting tasks. This program has experienced rapid growth in recent years, and I'm hopeful we can come up with a plan to boost the workforce needed to help provide these families with qualified caregivers so that parents are able to have confidence in knowing they can go back to work to better financially support their families.



Senate Republican Bills Signed into Law

By Majority Whip Frank Carroll

I'm happy to report about two dozen Senate bills were signed into law this week, covering a variety of issues impacting Arizona. Among them was a bill I sponsored, SB 1308, which modifies requirements of the Department of Health Services (DHS) relating to the licensing, oversight, and regulation of sober living homes that provide a location for individuals to recover from prior substance use disorders. Over the years, there have been many frightening stories about fraud and abuse at these homes, thanks to a lack of regulation and licensing. This new law will protect the men and women residing at these homes, put bad actors on notice, and end the gravy train of taxpayer funds to those attempting to exploit the system for financial gain. SB 1585, sponsored by Majority Leader Shamp, modifies the definition of a dangerous crime against children (DCAC) to specifically include acts committed against a person posing as a minor, if the defendant knew, or had reason to know, the purported minor was under the age of 15. SB 1525, sponsored by Senator Dunn, allows career technical education district's (CTED) to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Arizona Public Universities to offer technical education courses. SB 1424, sponsored by Senator Bolick, establishes the criminal classification of impersonating a veteran, which a person commits by knowingly misrepresenting themselves to be a veteran. I'm thankful for everyone who supported these bills as they made their way through the House and Senate to the Governor's desk.



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