



July 1, 2023

HOBBS' ABUSE OF POWER

Governor Hobbs exercised extreme and unconstitutional overreach this week and last by signing several legally questionable executive orders in an attempt to circumvent the Legislature. The first one strips county attorneys of their ability to deal with abortion-related prosecutions, transfers that power to Attorney General Mayes, and bans state agencies from assisting in those investigations. Mayes has publicly stated she will not enforce the laws established by the Legislature. The second executive order allows elective, sex reassignment surgeries to be covered by state health insurance plans. Preliminary estimates from the Arizona Department of Administration anticipate taxpayers will be shelling out \$788,000 annually for this coverage. The third bans state or federal resources from being used on basic therapy for minors struggling to identify with their biological sex.



CHECKS AND BALANCES

Instead of helping families struggling to keep a roof over their heads, fill their tanks with gas and put food on the table, Governor Hobbs is making sure taxpayer dollars are now instead going towards elective, sex change surgeries. The Governor continues to show just how tone deaf and out of touch she is with the majority of hard-working Arizonans. Her illegal power grabs will not be tolerated by Senate Republicans. We took action this week by suspending future confirmation hearings from the Senate Committee on Director Nominations, and yet the Governor doubled down with further unilateral overreaches. The Arizona Senate Majority Caucus is committed to checks and balances and will be reviewing all legal options to ensure appropriate constitutional separation of powers.



- Senator T.J. Shope



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DINO COMMITTEE SUSPENDED

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Director Nominations (DINO), I have major concerns with Katie Hobbs dictating to her state agency directors to not follow the law. This is a dangerous precedent. The Senate Committee on Director Nominations was created to honestly and thoroughly vet directors appointed by the Governor to critical state agencies so that only highly qualified, non-partisan individuals seeking to serve the best interests of our citizens within the confines of these roles are confirmed. Their duty is to follow statute prescribed by the Legislature. As a result, we are now forced to redirect our attention from confirming Directors, to examining the fallout of Hobbs' unconstitutional maneuvers, as well as the likelihood of future overreaches of her authority. We've paused future DINO hearings and requested a meeting with Hobbs, but have yet to hear back.



- Senator Jake Hoffman

RADICAL VEHICLE REGULATIONS

The outrageous federal overreach of the Biden Administration is on full display as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers two dramatic rule changes on emissions standards for the cars, busses and trucks we use every day to get to our destinations and ship goods across Arizona. House Speaker Toma and I submitted letters of opposition during their public comment period laying out the dire consequences these rules will have on everyday Arizonans. The unrealistic goal of forcing two-thirds of all vehicles sold in the U.S. to transition to electric by 2032 will cost billions of dollars to achieve, kill our economy, cost jobs, threaten our power grid and our national security. While our Attorney General and other Democrats pose as accomplices to the reckless policies pushed by Biden, we are stepping into the gap to hold the line against this federal overreach.



- President Warren Petersen



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HOBBS PROTECTS SEX OFFENDERS

Governor Hobbs sadly vetoed one of my bills that would have armed parents, schools, churches and community centers with a digital tool of notification, transparency and awareness in order to prevent sex offenders currently not listed on the state's sex offender website from further victimizing our kids. Right now, if a parent signs their child up for a sports team, and that coach was convicted of committing a dangerous sex crime against a minor but is not considered likely to reoffend, that coach may not be listed on the website. When the parent searches the site and doesn't see the coach's name pop up, they are given a false sense of security that their child will be in good hands. My bill would have closed that loophole. Protecting our children from sexual victimization should not be a partisan issue, and yet all Democrats in the Legislature voted against the bill.



- Senator Sine Kerr

ENDING CHILD SEX-TRAFFICKING

I recently previewed an eye-opening new movie based on a true story aiming to shine a light on the horrific atrocities of child-trafficking. The "Sound of Freedom" is set for release July 4 and has reinvigorated my commitment to end this evil practice. While I've co-sponsored and passed bills for harsher punishments against the criminals responsible for these acts, we need to do more. We can't continue to turn a blind eye to this grave issue stealing the innocence and risking the lives of our precious children. It's our duty as lawmakers to protect those who cannot protect themselves, and I'm calling on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle at the Legislature, as well as the Governor, to recognize the dire need for commonsense protections and to take action next session. I vow to work tirelessly to bring justice to these victims and prevent further victimization.



- Senator Frank Carroll



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INCREASED TRANSPARENCY WITHIN DCS

Each year, the Department of Child Safety (DCS) has been taking about \$6 million in foster children's federal social security, disability, and veteran survivor benefits without the oversight needed to guarantee the agency is properly saving and allocating the funds for the children. Rep. Steve Montenegro and I got to work this session to craft legislation to address this and sponsored mirror bills in the House and the Senate. I'm proud to have sponsored SB 1430, the mirror bill to HB 2559 which has been signed into law. DCS will now be required to collaborate with the child and their attorney to find a fiduciary to manage these funds until they're 18, in addition to other measures that increase transparency and accountability. This bill is the first of its kind in the nation, and I believe it will serve as a blueprint for other states to follow.



- Senator Justine Wadsack



PREPARING THE NEXT COVID-19 HEARING

I am blown away by the response we've received over the last two months since holding the Novel Coronavirus Southwestern Intergovernmental Committee hearings. Our panel discussed eye-opening data and listened to powerful and heartbreaking testimony about our country and state's overreaching COVID-19 pandemic response. Yet, there is still much to be discussed about making sure the atrocities Americans experienced and continue to experience do not happen again in the event we face another pandemic. I'm proud to share Dr. Peter McCullough has been named ex officio for our next hearing scheduled for the end of September. Dr. McCullough played an enormous role in our first two hearings, and I'm thrilled he'll remain a key part of our continued discussions. I will keep you up to date with more details in the coming weeks.



- Senator Janae Shamp





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CIVIC IMPACT AWARD

Leadership can be a powerful force to improve lives and livelihoods. I was honored to recently receive the Civic Impact Award from the Arizona Center for Rural Leadership. Their mission is to equip and empower leaders to meet the needs of rural Arizona. This award recognizes a Project CENTRL alumnus whose impact significantly contributes to the civic life in their community. These contributions may include public policy, organizational development, and volunteer enhancement activities intended to improve the common good of their community and beyond. I was fortunate to be a part of the 17th Project CENTRL class, which is the organization's rural leadership program. The program without a doubt has inspired me on how to become a better leader in and for my district.



- Senator David Gowan



SUPPORTING VALLEY VETERANS

Military service is challenging, stressful and dangerous. Returning to civilian life poses its own difficulties. I strongly believe it's our duty to support those who've sacrificed to protect our country, and I am proud to have played a part in helping fund a new, incredible development that will serve these men and women. This week, I was surprised with an award from Glendale City Mayor Jerry Weiers for appropriating \$3.1 million in our FY 2024 state budget towards building a community of 50 cottage-style homes for military veterans. The eight-acre site where these homes will be built is at 67th Avenue and Grand Avenue in Glendale, near Sandy Coor VFW Post 1433. Veterans will only need to show their discharge paperwork, DD214, and commit to the transition program in order to stay in one of the homes. They are expecting to break ground on this project by the end of the year, and I'm excited to see Mayor Weiers' vision come to fruition.



- Senator Anthony Kern





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REMEMBERING THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS

Ten years ago, my community was devastated by the tragic deaths of 19 brave men who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire on June 30, 2013. The Granite Mountain Hotshots were members of a wildland firefighting crew based out of the Prescott Fire Department. These men were husbands, fathers, brothers and sons whose absence will forever be felt. Among them, a family friend of mine. I spoke at the unveiling of a beautiful mural in downtown Prescott this week to honor these men, and to ensure that their bravery and sacrifice will never be forgotten. I also want to point out, there are 20 men in the mural (pictured on the right), and there were in fact 20 heroes that day, Brendan McDonough was the lone survivor. During this somber anniversary, may we reflect on their selfless service.



- Senator Ken Bennett



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY

Today, Americans celebrate Independence Day with parades, barbecues and fireworks, which is actually very similar to how our country celebrated nearly 250 years ago when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, declaring the 13 American colonies free and independent from British rule. The Colonies were frustrated about being forced to pay taxes to England, despite having no representation in the British Parliament, and eventually set out to draft a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was written by a committee that included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. That document remains a symbol of liberty, and Independence Day should serve as a reminder of how blessed we are to live in this great, free nation. I hope you have a blessed and safe 4th of July with your loved ones!



- Senator J.D. Mesnard





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