



August 26, 2023

## FIGHTING THE FENTANYL CRISIS

Fentanyl deaths are a common tragedy in communities across Arizona. This opioid is the single deadliest drug our nation has ever encountered. The Drug Enforcement Administration has stated that more than half of fentanyl comes in across the Arizona-Mexico border. While Monday was National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day, our Caucus has attempted multiple times this past session to fight this crisis by supporting legislation to protect our citizens. Sadly, many of those bills were irresponsibly vetoed by Governor Hobbs. HB2469 would have declared fentanyl trafficking across our border as a public health crisis. My bill, SB1027, would have created tougher punishments for fentanyl suppliers when children are exposed to the drug's dangerous effects. HB2802 would have created drug-free neighborhood zones and stricter penalties for dealers selling in these areas.



*-Senator Anthony Kern*

## OPEN BORDER DISASTER

Deadly fentanyl, human smuggling, child sex trafficking, murders and rapes are some of the horrific events flowing across our border at an alarming rate, thanks to the negligence of the Biden Administration and Governor Hobbs. This week, the New York Post shed light on yet another example of the reckless Democrat policies that are endangering our citizens. According to their report, 1400 illegal migrants on average each day are passing freely through 114 massive sections of the border wall purposely left open along a 36-mile stretch near Lukeville, allegedly for flood mitigation during the monsoon. Instead of border agents, military members, or other law enforcement officers there to stop these individuals, they are allowed to enter our state. Arizona is currently experiencing an invasion. National security is in grave danger, and nowhere are our Governor or the President to be found on this matter.



*-Senator Sonny Borrelli*



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## MOST ARIZONANS SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE

A new poll released this month shows a majority of Arizonans support school choice. The poll conducted by WPA Intelligence on behalf of "Yes. Every Kid. Foundation." found that more than three-quarters of parents (78%) and almost two-thirds of non-parents (62%) support Empowerment Scholarship Accounts. As a member of the Senate Majority Leadership Team, I'm proud that our Caucus stopped the Governor and Legislative Democrats from restricting, capping or repealing the historic expansion of our school choice program, which allows parents the opportunity to evaluate all options available to provide their children with the best education possible. Families are no longer bound to schools that don't provide the needed specialized curriculums for their individual needs, strictly because of their zip codes or household incomes. Now, every child has an opportunity to excel!



- Senator T.J. Shope

## HIGHLIGHTING BIPARTISAN EFFORTS

This week, Governor Hobbs held a ceremonial signing of my bill, SB 1432, which will keep water flowing to the Rio Verde Foothills community. This bill was originally signed back in June with an emergency clause that has allowed the community to get to work on creating a standpipe district. During the ceremony, Hobbs thanked me for my bipartisan work, which I agree is something we need more of. Water is not partisan, nor is it political- it's essential for life. But, while we were on the topic of working together, I wanted to take the opportunity to mention my support for school choice. I told the Governor that ESAs are not to be dismantled on my watch and asked for a meeting with her to discuss the program. She agreed. I strongly believe it's time to put the people first. If we can work together to find solutions regarding water, we can also do so for our children. I look forward to meeting with the Governor to discuss the importance of supporting ESAs for generations to come.



-Senator Justine Wadsack



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## PROTECTING YOUR FREEDOMS

With election season upon us, we're once again witnessing COVID-19 fearmongering from the Left as liberal entities in Georgia, New York and California are again overstepping their authority in dictating mask mandates. As a registered nurse who has been detrimentally impacted by government infringement not based on scientific evidence, I want you to rest assured that I will fight tooth and nail to make sure you're protected from this gross overreach. If you want to wear a mask, wear a mask. If you don't want to wear a mask, don't wear one. This is a personal choice that our citizens are allowed to make. If a business wants to force you to wear a mask and you don't wish to, you have the right to take your business elsewhere. I will work to provide more guidance for you and your family as needed, and I vow to craft more legislation next session that further protects your God-given freedoms.



-*Senator Janae Shamp*



## LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

I am very honored to be named Legislator of the Year by the Arizona Association of County School Superintendents for supporting policies that are beneficial to the betterment of public schools in the state of Arizona. As chair of the Senate Committee on Education, I made it a priority this past session to ensure schools, big and small, have the funding they need to operate successfully. For example, I allocated money in this year's state budget for the Skull Valley School District after receiving a call that they were in need of funding for capital improvements. I'm always focused on building positive learning environments in my district and throughout the state and look forward to continuing this priority at the Legislature. My hope is that the school districts I represent know they can come to me with their needs, and I will respond with solutions.



- *Senator Ken Bennett*







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