ABOUT THIS REPORT

After each legislative session, Secular AZ publishes a Secular Scorecard and Legislative Wrap-Up to highlight Arizona state legislators’ records on issues of separation of church and state. With this report, you have the most detailed account available of all issues affecting state/church separation at the State Capitol. Our objective is to analyze lawmakers’ actions overall at the Capitol so you can see which legislators are best (and least) upholding the Constitutional principles of secular government. We also wish to illustrate our work at the Capitol so you may see how your support for our organization is continuing to grow the secular movement in Arizona, and how it influences what legislation gets passed.

What were Secular AZ’s 2021 policy priorities?

Major advocacy priorities this session included:

- Advocating for public policies based in science and reason
- Advocating for comprehensive sex education
- Advocating for LGBTQ+ equality
- Advocating for transgender youth
- Advocating privacy, bodily autonomy, and uncensored access to scientifically accurate information for pregnant people
- Advocating for terminally ill patients to have access to medical aid in dying
- Opposing millions of public tax dollars to be used for private religious education
- Opposing religious refusals in health care
- Opposing dangerous conversion therapy
- Opposing draconian restrictions on abortion care
- Opposing religious privilege laws
ABOUT CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

A key part of our mission this year involved countering the swiftly ballooning influence within the Legislature of Christian nationalism — the organized national movement which recently exploded into national view after adherents incited the January 6th insurrection.

Christian nationalism is the non-factual political ideology that America is a Christian nation and that Christians therefore deserve special treatment. It includes assumptions of nativism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and heteronormativity, along with divine sanction for authoritarianism and militarism.

Noteworthy champions of this ideology include national coordinated campaign Project Blitz — responsible for a now-annual deluge of bills in legislatures nationwide. Project Blitz’s effort draws from a playbook developed by the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, introducing model legislation privileging “traditional Judeo-Christian religious values and beliefs in the public square.”

A key component of the Christian nationalist agenda involves a 20-year court packing scheme that is now resulting in decisions upholding so-called “religious freedom” laws. **Nearly ¾ of all bills we opposed this year (an unprecedented number) were part of this agenda, including:**

- 18 bills criminalizing abortion and forcing pregnant people to give birth
- 9 bills suppressing the rights and identities of LGBTQ+ people
- 3 bills granting extreme legal privileges to religious organizations
- 1 bill advancing state-sponsored public prayer
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM MAKES BIPARTISAN INROADS

Christian nationalist arguments became notably more persuasive in the State Legislature this year, conspicuously swaying the below seven Democratic lawmakers to join the Republican majority in voting for HB2648—a bill supported by well-known religious extremist groups Alliance Defending Freedom and Center for Arizona Policy.

- César Chávez (D-29)
- Diego Espinoza (D-19)
- Alma Hernandez (D-3)
- Aaron Lieberman (D-28)
- Jennifer Longdon (D-24)
- Robert Meza (D-30)
- Amish Shah (D-24)

These lawmakers later recanted their votes and opposed HB2648 following public outcry plus direct lobbying by Secular AZ and partners. However, the episode draws attention to clear concerns for the future:

1. That Christian nationalists are seeing early success in their newly-adopted strategy of shrouding extremist terms in moderate, secular arguments

2. That party-line opposition to Christian nationalism cannot be taken for granted
SPOTLIGHT ON RELIGIOUS PRIVILEGE BILLS

The 2021 Legislature saw an inordinately high number of bills introduced that carved out extreme privileges for religion in civic life. Our largest battles revolved around the following:

HB2648: Extreme legal immunity bill for religious groups

Secular AZ joined with faith communities, civil liberties organizations, and other community groups in 2021 to raise the alarm about HB2648, which would have provided unprecedented legal immunity for religious organizations that violate nearly any criminal or civil law at any time.

Masked in terminology that falsely linked the bill to recent Supreme Court decisions on pandemic restrictions, HB2648 would have given religious organizations immunity from all criminal and civil liability for any behavior connected to that organization’s religious exercise. In other words:

- Religious schools and organizations could have avoided liability for child abuse
- Religious hospitals could have avoided accountability for refusal of services
- Employees of religious schools and hospitals could have lost the right to sue for harassment
- Discrimination or criminal behavior
- A house of worship could have disregarded fire codes
- Religious daycares could have refused to comply with child-protection laws.

The list of potential abuses and harms was endless.
Protections under the bill would have extended to any organization claiming a religious mission. This would have encompassed extremist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and far-right militias.

HB2648 was not only dangerous, but unnecessary. Current law already protects religious freedom, even in times of crisis. The Arizona Religious Freedom Restoration Act provides that the “government shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion” unless the government can meet a very high legal standard.

HB2648 was also much more extreme than recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings which ostensibly inspired it. The Court made clear that government may not impose emergency restrictions on worship services that are more severe than those imposed on comparable secular gatherings. Under HB2648, the government’s hands would have been tied if a religious organization jeopardized the lives of the public or the members of the organization itself.

Secular AZ played a lead role in drawing attention to the above outrages. We directly lobbied Legislators; prompted constituents to make hundreds of contacts with Legislators and the Governor; drew local and national press to the bill; and worked with a coalition of partners including:

- National Council of Jewish Women AZ (NCJWAZ)
- Protecting Arizona’s Family Coalition (PAFCO)
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona (ACLU of Arizona)
- NARAL Pro Choice America
- Equality Arizona (EQ AZ)
- Desert Star Family Planning
- Arizona Center for Women’s Advancement (ACWA)
- Arizona NOW
- American Association of University Women Arizona (AAUWAZ)
- Affinis Humanity
- Arizona Jews For Justice (AJJ)
HB2648 passed the State House with a unanimous Republican majority, plus “yes” votes from Democrat Representatives Chávez, Espinoza, Alma Hernandez, Lieberman, Longdon, Meza, and Shah.

It passed Senate Government Committee before being held by Senate President Fann. Lawmakers attempted to revive the bill on short notice at the end of session, but again pulled it from the floor following immediate public outcry.

Due to the severity of this bill, votes on it have been scored double on our scorecard.

**SB1362: More medical refusals**

SB1362 would have expanded religious medical refusal laws regarding abortion to cover students and health care advisors as well as medical professionals.

The bill would have also expanded the ability of healthcare institutions to refuse providing abortions and contraception, making it possible for one to object for “ethical” as well as religious reasons.

Lumping “emergency contraception” in with the list of services to which one could object also falsely likened methods such as Plan B to abortion and fail to protect women who were raped.

Proponents claimed the bill would have helped ensure that people who object to abortion and emergency contraception wouldn’t have to participate in either. However, conscience clauses already exist in Arizona allowing anyone to opt-out of supporting medical procedures to which they object.

Secular AZ mobilized constituents to contact lawmakers to oppose SB1362 and engaged in direct lobbying within the Legislature. The bill passed the Senate but was ultimately held in House Health Committee.
HB2575: Religious-Only Hospital Visitation Privilege

HB2575 was pitched by its proponents as an act of compassion for hospitalized people, particularly those at the end of life. Its 8 lines of text require hospitals to facilitate visits from clergy members at any time of day. However, the needs of nonreligious people were conspicuously ignored in the law’s language, with the term “clergy” left undefined and commonly understood to mean religious authorities only.

Secular AZ opposed HB2575, testified in committee, and prompted constituents to contact lawmakers in support of the supposed spirit of the bill – to alleviate the emotional burdens of all hospitalized people. We asked Senators to make a simple amendment: replace the faith-based term "clergy" with terminology that includes nonreligious people.

Secular testimony garnered displays of sympathy and a promise to revisit the bill by Chair Nancy Barto (R-6). However, when the bill moved to floor, Barto and others claimed not to have heard from the secular constituents. Bill sponsor Senator Nguyen (R-1) hung up on Secular AZ’s lobby team when contacted with the secular point of view.

HB2575 was signed into law by Governor Ducey.
OTHER NOTEWORTHY POLITICS

Legislative Lowlight: Senator Leach for Conversion Therapy

Special mention goes to Senator Vince Leach (LD-11) for setting a new legislative record: the most attempts by one lawmaker to protect the abusive practice of conversion therapy.

Senator Leach ran a total of four bills attempting to outlaw restrictions on conversion therapy – the dangerous and discredited practice of attempting to change one’s sexual orientation, known for its high risk of depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior among patients, including minors.

Leach’s bills would have effectively banned bans on the practice and overturned one currently in place by Pima County.

Opponents of Leach’s legislation included the son of GOP Governor hopeful Matt Salmon and numerous national partners and local advocates.

Fortunately none of Senator Leach’s legislation made it out of committee.

Dead Bills Revived in Budget

Several bills that didn’t make it to the floor came back as part of the budget this year. This included:

- An expansion of the state’s school voucher program, Boyer’s ESA Expansion (SB1452)
- A $1.5 giveaway to the limited service pregnancy center operation the Human Coalition (SB1251)
- A (supposed) ban on the teaching of critical race theory (HB2906)
Secular Invocations

Our scorecard includes points given to lawmakers for delivering pre-floor invocations that are non-religious in nature.

Secular AZ catalogues the opening prayers given by legislators at the start of every floor session. We also give lawmakers support making their own secular invocations and will on occasion arrange guests to deliver them.

This year, **16 out of 168 prayers observed were secular in nature.** We awarded each lawmaker who gave a secular invocation one point on our scorecard per invocation.

One additional prayer was Jewish. **The remaining 151 invocations were religious Christian prayers.**

In a normal year, our invocation numbers would be much higher as our lobbyist uses spare time to talk to lawmakers about invocations in passing. Due to COVID, this was not possible, which means that all sixteen invocations given this year were completely organic.

In other words, **the lawmakers who gave secular invocations did this on their own and without being asked. This is a huge win for our advocacy and education efforts over the years.**
Secular Studies

Secular Studies is a lunch discussion group for lawmakers to have open conversations about important issues facing Arizonans. We bring a guest speaker to give a brief presentation, and then facilitate conversation amongst lawmakers on this topic. The discussions are not centered around any particular piece of legislation. Instead, they are focused on issues and conversation. Lawmakers of all religious backgrounds are invited. It is a time for fellow lawmakers to get to know one another in a more personal way.

Virtual Secular Studies sessions held during the pandemic included powerful sessions, featuring a theme on educating lawmakers on Christian nationalism. Guest speakers included:

- **Andrew Seidel** – constitutional attorney and author who discussed his book about Christian nationalism *The Founding Myth*

- **Katherine Stewart** – an investigative reporter, author, and Christian nationalism expert who covers religious liberty, politics, policy, education

- **Dr. Albert Celoza** – Political Science and Religious Studies professor with a background in United Nations Association, Arizona Interfaith Movement and the Asian Pacific Community in Action.
THE SECULAR SCORECARD

After each legislative session, Secular AZ publishes a Secular Scorecard to highlight Arizona state legislators’ records on issues of separation of church and state. We analyze lawmakers’ actions at the Capitol so you can see which legislators are best (and least) upholding the Constitutional principles of secular government. We also illustrate our work at the Capitol so you may see how your support for our organization is growing the secular movement in Arizona, and how it influences what legislation gets passed.

How do we choose the issues used for scoring?

The issues identified in this report are those indicated in our mission statement, and those identified by constituents during our annual Secular Summit in December (open to all members).

Scorecard Methodology

We score lawmakers using the following score system:

- **Floor votes** (1 point each +/-)
- **Bill sponsorship** (2 points for each bill introduced; 1 point for each bill co-sponsored)
- **Secular Invocations** delivered (1 point each)
- **Bill assignment**: score for committee chairs, President Speaker based on whether these lawmakers held bills or let them proceed (1 point each +/-)

Points are added for each pro-secular action taken (i.e. voting with us on a bill), and subtracted for each anti-secular action (i.e., the introduction of an anti-secular bill).

Details about each bill we used on the scorecard and other criteria used for scoring can be found in the rest of this document.
ABOUT OUR 2021 ACTIONS

In the bill descriptions, we have described the types of actions Secular AZ’s lobby team took to either support or oppose the bill:

- **Recruited bill sponsor** – discussions in the off-season with lawmakers
- **Coalition Work** – building and working with coalition partners
- **Committee Testimony & Preparation** – providing testimony in Committee
- **Direct Lobbying** – meeting with Lawmakers, Legislative Staff
- **Grassroots Lobbying** – action alerts, emails, phone calls, request to speak
- **Direct Action** – protests, press conferences

WHAT’S NEXT?

Our Legislature works best when voters hold their legislators accountable, so please take a moment to tell your officials how you feel about their records. More importantly, please organize to hold these lawmakers accountable at the ballot box. Secular Arizonans are strongly poised to make big progress once the makeup of the Legislature changes—a goal increasingly within our grasp.

Thank you for being part of our movement.

-The Secular AZ Government Affairs Team
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Bill Details:
Bills Signed Into Law
SB18thi23/ HB2895: General appropriations act; 2021-2022

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Signed into law

Description: General budget. Includes several anti-science and anti-secular items, including:

- Appropriating $1.5 million to a corporation running unlicensed religious limited service pregnancy centers. Company is known to use geotargeting, misleading advertising, bunk science, and social pressuring techniques to persuade pregnant people to visit these unlicensed religious limited-service pregnancy centers
- Appropriating $100,000 to additional limited service pregnancy centers

Heard in: Senate Appropriations (Gowan), House Appropriations (Cobb)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Coalition Work

Sponsors: SB1823: Fann, Borrelli, Gowan, Gray, Leach   HB2895: Cobb

HB2035: Parental rights; sex education instruction (strike everything amendment)

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Signed into law

Description: Opt children in Arizona out of sex education without written permission by a parent or guardian. Bans the teaching of sex education before grade five. Vague language about what constitutes a discussion about sex creates loopholes through which schools may be prohibited from discussing LGBTQ+ topics. Written as a response to the veto on SB1456.

Heard In: House Appropriations (Cobb), Senate Appropriations (Gowan), House HHS (Osborne)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Grassroots Lobbying; Direct Action
Sponsors: Griffin

SB1457: Abortion; unborn child; genetic abnormality

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Signed into law

**Description:** Introduces fetal personhood from conception. Criminalizes doctors and patients performing abortions because of a genetic abnormality, and anyone who receives financial assistance for abortion care, including health insurance companies paying their portion.

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Grassroots Lobbying; Direct Action.

**Heard in:** Senate Judiciary (Petersen), House Judiciary (Pratt)

**Sponsors:** Barto, Boyer, Gray, Kerr, Leach, Livingston, Petersen, Shope

HB2575: Hospitals; visitation

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Signed into law

**Description:** Requires hospitals to allow visitation from “clergy” members at all times; clergy is not defined. No secular alternative presented for patients. (Later amended to allow hospitals to require virtual meetings.)

**Heard in:** House HHS (Osborne), Senate HHS (Barto)

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Grassroots Lobbying.
**BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW**

**Sponsors:** Nguyen, Bowers, Grantham, John, Kaiser, Shah, Toma

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**SB1838 / HB2909: unborn child; statutory language**

**POSITION:** Oppose    **OUTCOME:** Signed into law

**Description:** Redefines “product of human conception” as “unborn child” in statute related to disposal of human remains. Same bill as SB1022, which was vetoed by the Governor (along with 21 others) as part of political fight on state budget. (We have only recorded votes for SB1022 on our scorecard.)

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Grassroots Lobbying; Coalition Work

**Heard in:** Not heard in committee as SB1838, but same language was heard in Senate HHS (Barto), House HHS (Osborne) as SB1022.

**Outcome:** Signed into law

**Sponsors:** Townsend (SB1838); Bowers (HB2909)

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**SB1254: Website; adoption information; task force**

**POSITION:** Oppose    **OUTCOME:** Signed into law

**Description:** Uses Arizona Department of Health Services to promote unlicensed religious fake pregnancy centers and unlicensed adoption centers. Censors information about abortion care.

**Heard in:** Senate HHS (Barto), House HHS (Osborne)

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Grassroots Lobbying; Coalition Work.
SB1377: Civil liability; public health pandemic

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Signed into law

**Description:** Shields a variety of institutions from civil liability during a state of emergency for a pandemic, including all religious organizations.

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Coalition Work.

**Heard in:** Senate (Petersen), House (Pratt)

**Outcome:** Signed into law

**Sponsors:** Leach, Barto, Borrelli, Boyer, Fann, Gowan, Gray, Kerr, Livingston, Mesnard, Pace, Shope, Townsend, Ugenti-Rita, Biassuici, Bolick, Bowers, Hoffman, Kavanagh, Osborne, Toma, Weninger

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SCR1009: Abortion data; survivors act; supporting

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Signed into law

**Description:** a Senate resolution in support of the Federal Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (BAASPA).

**Heard in:** Senate HHS (Barto), House HHS (Osborne)

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Coalition Work
HB2898 / SB1826: K-12 education; budget reconciliation; 2021-2022

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Signed into law

Description: Bans teaching controversial topics like “critical race theory”. Uses an inaccurate definition of that theory, perpetuating myths about it.

Heard in: House Appropriations (Cobb), Senate Appropriations (Gowan)

Sponsors: HB2898: Cobb  SB1826: Fann, Borrelli, Gowan, Gray, Leach

SB1082: Pharmacists; dispensing authority; hormonal contraceptives

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Signed into law

Description: Allows pharmacists to dispense birth control to patients 18+ pursuant to a standing AZDHS order.

Heard in: Senate HHS (Barto), House HHS (Osborne)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Meeting with Lawmakers, Legislative Staff; Grassroots Lobbying
Sponsor: Ugenti-Rita
**HB2241: Schools; instruction; Holocaust; genocides**

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Signed into law

**Description:** Required that students be taught about the Holocaust and other genocides at least twice between 7th and 12th grade.

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Action

**Heard in:** House Education (Udall), Senate Education (Boyer)

**Sponsors:** A Hernandez, Blackman, Bolding, Chavez, Cobb, DeGrazia, Dunn, Friese, D Hernandez, Jermaine, Lieberman, Longdon, Osborne, Pawlik
BILLS HEARD BUT NOT SIGNED
HB2648: Religious services; essential services

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Passed House; held by Senate President (Fann)

Description: A sweeping expansion of legal immunities for religious organizations. Under the bill, the government, including courts, would be forbidden from imposing any "monetary fee, civil or criminal penalty, damages award, or injunction" against a religious organization in connection with the organization’s exercise of religion. Could have resulted in a complete exemption from all law whenever a religious organization claims to be engaged in the exercise of religion.

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Coalition Work; Direct Action.

Heard in: Senate Judiciary (Petersen), Senate Government (Ugenti-Rita)

Sponsors: Toma, Barto, Biassiuci, Blackman, Bolick, Bowers, Burges, Carroll, Chaplik, Cobb, Cook, Dunn Fillmore, Finchem, Grantham, Griffin, Hoffman, John, Kaiser, Kavanagh, Nguyen, Nutt, Osborne, Parker, Payne, Pingerelli, Roberts, Weninger, Wilmeth, Barto, Boyer, Gray, Livingston
ANTI-LGBTQ+ BILLS

SB1456: Sex education instruction; parental rights

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Vetoed

**Description:** A slate of discriminatory restrictions on sex education:
- Banning teachers from talking about any topic pertaining to LGBTQ+ people or gender.
- Changing AZ from opt-out to opt-in for any discussion of sexuality, including sex education.
- Banning teaching younger grades 1-4 lessons that help them cultivate healthy relationships and identify abuse

**Heard in:** Senate Education (Boyer), House Judiciary (Pratt)

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Grassroots Lobbying; Direct Action

**Outcome:** Vetoed by Governor.

**Sponsors:** Barto, Boyer, Gray, Kerr, Leach, Livingston, Mesnard, Shope
SB1482: Professions; therapy ban prohibition

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Failed Committee

Description: Would have prohibited the state and its subdivisions from banning conversion therapy.

Heard in: House HHS (Osborne)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Coalition Work

Sponsors: Leach, Barto, Borrelli, Boyer, Gowan, Kerr

SB1269: (strike everything amendment)

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Passed committee; held by Speaker

Description: Would have banned the state and its subdivisions from determining whether a health care professional has engaged in unprofessional conduct. Designed to protect the practice of conversion therapy against local or state bans.

Heard in: Senate Appropriations (Gowan), House Criminal Justice (Blackman)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Coalition Work

Sponsor: Blackman
ANTI-ABORTION BILLS

HB2404: appropriations; family health pilot program

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Passed committee; held by Speaker; similar legislation signed into law in the budget

Description: Would have given $3 million in taxpayer funds to an organization running fake, unlicensed religious healthcare clinics that specialize in deceptive, invasive marketing. (Mirror to SB1251)

Heard in: House HHS (Osborne), House Appropriations (Gowan)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Coalition Work

Sponsor: Udall

SB1022: Unborn child; statutory language

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Vetoed; signed into law as SB1838

Description: Fetal personhood bill. Redefines “product of human conception” as “unborn child” in statute relating to the disposition of fetal remains. Vetoed by Governor as part of an attempt to force the Legislature to pass a budget, but revived as SB1838.

Heard in: Senate HHS (Barto), House HHS (Osborne)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying

Sponsor: Townsend
SB1362: Abortion; refusal to assist

POSITION: Oppose    OUTCOME: Passed Senate; held in House HHS (Osborne)

Description: Would have expanded religious medical refusal laws regarding abortion to cover students as well as health care advisors.

Heard in: Senate HHS (Barto)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying

Sponsor: Rogers

SB1381: Disability-selection abortion; prohibited

POSITION: Oppose    OUTCOME: Passed Senate Judiciary; held by President (Fann)

Description: Would have imposed civil penalties on doctors who perform abortions ostensibly for the reasons of “disability selection.”

Heard in: House Judiciary (Pratt)

Outcome: Passed Senate committee; held by Senate President (Fann)

Sponsor: Rogers
**HB2140: Detectable heartbeat abortion; classification; 4 civil action; definitions (3/29 strike-everything)**

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Passed Senate Appropriations; held by President (Fann)

**Description:** Would have imposed felony charges against physicians and those who assist them in performing abortions.

**Heard in:** Senate Appropriations (as striker – chair not scored)

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation; Coalition Work

**Sponsors:** Townsend

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**ANTI-SECULAR SPEECH BILLS**

**HB2282: Instruction; Holocaust; antisemitism (5/24 strike-everything amendment)**

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Passed Senate; held by Speaker (Bowers)

**Description:** Would have encoded into law a controversial definition of “anti-semitism” that would limit political speech about the government of Israel or its policies.

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Grassroots Lobbying; Direct Lobbying; Coalition Work

**Heard in:** Senate Appropriations (as striker – chair not scored)

**Sponsors:** Gowan
ANTI-SECULAR EDUCATION BILLS

HB2060: schools; pledge; quiet reflection

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Passed House Government; held by Speaker (Bowers)

Description: Would have required students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and engage in one minute of “quiet reflection or moral reasoning.” Designed to indirectly promote school prayer.

Heard in: House Government (Kavanagh)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Grassroots Lobbying

Sponsor: Fillmore

SB1452: Arizona empowerment scholarships accounts; revisions

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Passed Senate, House committees; held by Speaker (Bowers); same legislation passed in state budget

Description: A large expansion of the state’s school voucher program.

Heard in: Senate Education (Boyer), House Ways and Means (Bolick)

Secular AZ Actions Taken: Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation

Sponsors: Boyer, Barto, Borrelli, Gowan, Gray, Leach, Livingston, Mesnard, Shope, Ugenti-Rita
SB1273: STOs; contributions; allowable uses

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Passed Senate, House committees; held by Speaker (Bowers)

**Description:** A large expansion of the state’s School Tuition Organization tax credit, which sends public money to private and religious schools.

**Heard in:** Senate Finance (Livingston), House Ways and Means (Bolick)

**Secular AZ Actions Taken:** Direct Lobbying; Grassroots Lobbying; Committee Testimony & Preparation

**Sponsor:** Mesnard

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SB1118: STO; scholarships; increase (strike everything amendment)

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Held by Speaker (Bowers)

**Description:** Expansion of School Tuition Organization program, which funnels public money into private and religious schools.

**Heard in:** Senate Appropriations (Gowan), House Ways and Means (Bolick)

**Sponsors:** Gowan
SB1532: Impeding school operations; civil liability (3/24 strike everything amendment)

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Passed House; failed Senate floor

Description: Would have banned officials, agencies, and subdivisions of the state from using public resources to aid in activities that “impede or prevent a public school from operating.” (I.e. labor disputes, protests.)

Heard in: House Transportation (striker amendment – chair not scored)

Sponsors: Livingston
BILLS NOT HEARD
HCR2028: Abortion data; survivors act; supporting.

POSITION: Oppose   OUTCOME: Held in committee (House HHS - Osborne)

Description: A resolution in support of the Federal Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and the enforcement of the Abortion Data Reporting Act

Sponsors: Osborne, Blackman, Bowers, Cobb, Griffin, Toma

HB2650: Abortion prohibition; licensure repealed

POSITION: Oppose   OUTCOME: Held by Speaker (Bowers)

Description: Would have allowed county attorneys to prosecute for “homicide by abortion.”

Sponsors: Blackman, Barton, Biasiucci, Bolick, Burges, Carroll, Cook, Fillmore, Hoffman, Toma

HB2878: Abortion; criminal classifications

POSITION: Oppose   OUTCOME: Held in House Judiciary (Pratt)

Description: Would have defined a fetus as an “unborn child”

Sponsors: Blackman
HB2877: Abortion; state personnel; resources; prohibition

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Held in House Judiciary (Pratt)

**Description:** Would have banned the state and its subdivisions from cooperating with Roe v. Wade.

**Sponsors:** Blackman

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SB1383: Detectable heartbeat abortion; offense

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Held Senate HHS (Barto)

**Description:** Would have criminalized abortions in which the fetus has a detectable “heartbeat”

**Sponsors:** Rogers

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SB1381: Disability-selection abortion; prohibited

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Held in Senate Judiciary (Petersen)

**Description:** Would have criminalized abortions based on disability selection

**Sponsors:** Rogers
**SB1641: Dismemberment abortion; prohibited**

**POSITION:** Oppose  
**OUTCOME:** Held in Senate HHS (Barto)

**Description:** Would have made it a felony for a physician to perform a “dismemberment abortion.”

**Sponsors:** Rogers

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**HB2250: Healthcare providers; religious beliefs**

**POSITION:** Support  
**OUTCOME:** Held in committees (House HHS - Osborne; House Commerce - Weninger)

**Description:** Would have required health care entities to disclose in advance what services they will decline based on religious beliefs.

**Sponsors:** Powers Hannley, Andrade, Fernandez, Friese, M Hernandez, Salman, Stahl Hamilton, Teran, Engel

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**SB1724: Abortion; authorized providers; waiting period**

**POSITION:** Support  
**OUTCOME:** Held in Senate HHS (Barto)

**Description:** Would have repealed various restrictions on abortion

**Sponsors:** Rios
SB1729: Abortion; objection; pharmacists; repeal

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate HHS (Barto)

Description: Would have exempted pharmacists from religious refusal law about abortion

Sponsors: Rios, Alston, Gonzales, Quezada, Steele, Andrade

SB1207: Abortion; parental consent; counseling exception

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate HHS (Barto)

Description: Would have introduced various requirements upon health care entities when consulting with minors about a pregnancy to ensure the minor’s health and safety.

Sponsors: Mendez, Quezada, M Hernandez, Salman

SB1208: Abortion; parental consent; exception

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate HHS (Barto)

Description: Various requirements upon health care entities when consulting with minors about a pregnancy to ensure the minor’s health and safety.

Sponsors: Mendez, Quezada, M Hernandez, Salman
SB1346: Abortion; religious employers; contraception; repeal.

**POSITION: Support**  **OUTCOME: Held in Senate HHS (Barto)**

**Description:** Would have repealed and repaired a wide array of laws restricting abortion

**Sponsors:** Gabaldon

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SB1199: Health care providers; pregnancy; ultrasounds

**POSITION: Support**  **OUTCOME: Held in Senate HHS (Barto)**

**Description:** Would have required limited service pregnancy centers to use licensed healthcare employees only

**Sponsors:** Mendez, Quezada, M Hernandez, Salman

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HB2870: Medication abortion; telemedicine; ultrasound

**POSITION: Support**  **OUTCOME: Held in House HHS (Osborne)**

**Description:** Would have introduced language making it easier for abortions providers to perform medical screenings via telemedicine.

**Sponsors:** Salman, Andrade, Cano, M Hernandez, Longdon, Powers Hannley, Teran, Mendez
BILLS NOT HEARD

HB2609: Repeal; imprisonment; abortion; solicitation

POSITION: Support OUTCOME: Held in House Judiciary (Pratt), HHS (Osborne)

Description: Would have repealed various statutes restricting abortion


HB2276: Licensure; transvaginal ultrasounds

POSITION: Support OUTCOME: Held in House HHS (Osborne)

Description: Would have required that health care providers be licensed in order to provide a trans-vaginal ultrasound. (Addressing the proliferation of unlicensed limited service pregnancy centers.)

Sponsors: Butler, Fernandez, Friese, Jermaine, Lieberman, Powers Hannley, Salman, Schwiebert, Teran, Alston

SCR1013: Equal rights; equal protection

POSITION: Support OUTCOME: Held by Senate President (Fann)

Description: Proposed an amendment to the state constitution that Arizona shall not deny or abridge equal protection under the law on account of sex.

Sponsors: Engel, Alston, Otondo, Steele, Andrade, Fernandez, Jermaine, Pawlik, Powers Hannley, Rodriguez, Schwiebert
SCR1012: Ratification; equal rights amendment

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held by Senate President (Fann)

**Description:** A resolution in support of an Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

**Sponsors:** Steele, Alston, Bowie, Contreras, Engel, Gabaldon, Marsh, Mendez, Navarrete, Peshlakai, Quezada, Rios, Andrade, Friese, Jermaine, Longdon, Shah

HCR2010: Ratification; equal rights amendment.

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held by in House Judiciary (Pratt)

**Description:** A resolution in support of an Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

**Sponsors:** Powers Hannley, Andrade, Butler, Fernandez, Friese, M Hernandez, Salman, Schwiebert, Stahl Hamilton, Teran, Engel

SB1325: Technical correction; public employees; expenses (strike everything amendment)

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Held in Senate Appropriations (Gowan)

**Description:** Would have prohibited the state and its subdivisions from restricting conversion therapy

**Sponsors:** Leach
SB1426: Conversion therapy; prohibition; minors

**Description:** Would have banned conversion therapy

**Sponsors:** Bowie, Alston, Engel, Gabaldon, Marsh, Mendez, Navarrete, Rios, Steele, M Hernandez, Jermaine, Pawlik, Salman

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HB2487: Conversion therapy; prohibition; sexual orientation

**Description:** Would have banned conversion therapy

**Sponsors:** Chavez, Epstein, A Hernandez, D Hernandez, Jermaine, Lieberman, Meza, Salman, Teran, Engel, Marsh

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SB1637: Biological sex; interscholastic athletics

**POSITION:** Oppose  **OUTCOME:** Held by President (Fann)

**Description:** Would have prohibited transgender student athletes from participating in teams corresponding to their chosen gender identity. Would have subjected students to prove their “biological sex” by means of a medical examination if their gender was called into question.

**Sponsors:** Rogers
HB2709: Birth certificates; gender

POSITION: Oppose   OUTCOME: Held in House HHS (Osborne)

Description: Would have required birth certificates only display sex as either “male” or “female”.

Sponsors: Fillmore

HB2725: State documents; sex identification

POSITION: Oppose   OUTCOME: Passed House Government (Kavanagh); held by Speaker (Bowers)

Description: Any document issued by any agency, board, commission or department of the state may only indicate an individual's sex as either male or female.

Sponsors: Fillmore
**SB1425: Antidiscrimination; housing; employment; public accommodations**

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held in Senate Commerce (Mesnard)

**Description:** Nondiscrimination law protecting LGBTQ+ people

**Sponsors:** Bowie, Alston, Engel, Gabaldon, Gonzales, Marsh, Mendez, Navarrete, Rios, Steele, M Hernandez, Jermaine, Lieberman, Pawlik, Salman

**HB2744: Antidiscrimination; housing; employment; public accommodations.**

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held by Speaker (Bowers)

**Description:** Nondiscrimination law protecting LGBTQ+ people

**Sponsors:** D Hernandez, Chavez, M Hernandez, Longdon, Meza, Rodriguez, Salman, Mendez

**HB2642: Antidiscrimination; housing; employment; public accommodations.**

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held in House Judiciary (Pratt), Government (Kavanagh)

**Description:** Nondiscrimination law protecting LGBTQ+ people

**Sponsors:** Shah, Teller
HB2655: Birth certificates; amendments; sex designation

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held in by Speaker (Bowers)

**Description:** Would have allowed transgender and intersex people to change the sex on their birth certificates by providing documentation from a licensed health professional.

**Sponsors:** D Hernandez, Chavez

HB2610: Crime reporting; gender identity

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held in House Public Safety (Payne)

**Description:** Would have required criminal justice agencies to collect data concerning crimes committed based on prejudice of gender identity.

**Sponsors:** Salman, Cano, M Hernandez

SB1424: Criminal responsibility; gender; sexual orientation

**POSITION:** Support  **OUTCOME:** Held in Senate Judiciary (Petersen)

**Description:** Would have stipulated that the use of force against another person is not justified by the discovery of that person’s gender identity or sexual orientation.

**Sponsors:** Bowie, Alston, Engel, Gabaldon, Mendez, Navarrete, Rios, Steele, Jermaine
SB1163: Death certificates; gender

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate HHS (Barto)

Description: Outlined various procedures for requiring that death certificates accurately reflect the deceased’s gender identity

Sponsors: Gabaldon, Jermaine

SB1162: Gender; driver licenses; nonoperating identification

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate Transportation (Pace)

Description: Would have allowed for the selection of “nonbinary” as a valid gender selection on driver’s licenses

Sponsors: Gabaldon

HB2653: Government contracts; antidiscrimination; civil rights

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in House Judiciary (Pratt)

Description: Nondiscrimination requirements in state-issued contracts

Sponsors: Chavez, D Hernandez
HB2743: Public accommodation; restrooms; gender

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in House HHS (Osborne), Government (Kavanagh)

Description: Would have required that all single-use bathrooms are gender neutral

Sponsors: D Hernandez, Longdon

SB1317: Textbooks; representation; disabilities; sexual orientation

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate Education (Boyer)

Description: Would have banned the use of school textbooks which reflect adversely on groups based on race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Sponsors: Alston, Engel, Gabaldon, Navarrete, Peshlakai, M Hernandez, Salman

HB2652: Transgender equality task force

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held by Speaker (Bowers)

Description: Would have established a transgender equality task force

Sponsors: D Hernandez, Chavez
HB2254: End-of-life decisions; terminally ill patients

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in House HHS (Osborne) House Judiciary (Pratt)

Description: Would have established procedures allowing for medical aid in dying


HB2065: Medical freedom; parental rights

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Held in House HHS (Osborne)

Description: Would have allowed parents to opt out of immunization requirements in schools

Sponsors: Fillmore

SCR1017: Racism; public health crisis

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate Government (Ugenti-Rita)

Description: Resolution proclaiming racism as a public health crisis and affirming a commitment to end racism and improve health outcomes in communities of color

Sponsors: Quezada, Alston, Mendez, Cano
SB1008: Clergy; priests; duty to report

POSITION: Support  OUTCOME: Held in Senate HHS (Barto)

Description: Would have required clergy to report all knowledge or suspicions of child abuse regardless whether this information was obtained during a confession

Sponsors: Steele

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HB2710: Sex education; child abuse prevention

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Held in House Education (Udall); House Appropriations (Cobb)

Description: Would have banned the teaching of sex education before sixth grade; required all sex education to promote “honor and respect for monogamous marriage.”

Sponsors: Fillmore

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HB2184: Sex education; parental consent; schools

POSITION: Oppose  OUTCOME: Held in House Education (Udall); House HHS (Osborne)

Description: Would have changed sex education from an “opt-out” to “opt-in” program. (Accomplished under HB2035.)

Sponsors: Blackman, Barton, Bolick, Carroll, Payne, Roberts
SB1340: Schools; sex education instruction

POSITION: Support OUTCOME: Held in Senate Education (Boyer)

Description: Would have introduced various requirements strengthening school sex education programs with emphasis on curricula that teach about positive interpersonal relationships, identifying and preventing abuse, discussing LGBTQ+ marginalization, and age-appropriate lessons about contraception.

Sponsors: Navarrete, Alston, Engel, Gabaldon, Gonzales, Mendez, Peshlakai, Salman, Teran

HB2647: Schools; sex education instruction.

POSITION: Support OUTCOME: Held by Speaker (Bowers)

Description: Mirror bill to SB1340 (sex education)


HB2251: Sex education; comprehensive; medically accurate

POSITION: Support OUTCOME: Held by Speaker (Bowers)

Description: Would have required schools to offer medically-accurate, comprehensive sex ed.

SB1513: Empowerment scholarship accounts; qualified students

POSITION: Oppose OUTCOME: Held in Senate Education (Boyer)

Description: Expansion of school voucher program

Sponsors: Rogers

HB2503: Empowerment scholarship accounts; student victims

POSITION: Oppose OUTCOME: Held by in House Education (Udall)

Outcome: Held in committee (House Education – Udall)

Sponsors: Bolick