

Secular AZ News

Getting nasty



HB2706— the discriminatory bill banning transgender girls from participating on girls' intramural sports teams— had a long, contentious hearing in House Health Committee this week.

This bill is the latest in a [series of Christian Nationalist and hate group-created bills](#) which have swarmed state legislatures for the purposes of advancing an anti-LGBTQ political agenda. Secular AZ's lobbyist highlighted this fact in testimony against HB2706, sparking a touchy political censuring by the committee chairperson.

Some amazing speakers showed up including brave parents and students, and opponents of HB2706 on Request to Speak (RTS) outweighed supporters nearly 4-1. Despite all this, the hearing heavily favored bill supporters and **HB2706 passed committee along party lines 5-4.**

This fight is far from over. Secular AZ is working diligently with lawmakers and allies behind the scenes.

Meanwhile, as the bill heads to the House floor, **it's time to make our voices heard against the bill to our own districts' lawmakers.**

Go to [Phone2Action](#) now to send another message about this bill— this time to your own Representatives.

Keeping watch

We're still keeping watch on the following anti-secular bills:

- [SB1224](#): tuition vouchers for out-of-state religious schools
- [HB2388 & SB1328](#): funding privacy-invading fake healthcare clinics
- [SB1082](#): abstinence-only sex education*

SB1224, HB2388, and SB1328 all passed committee, though SB1082 has thankfully been removed from the agenda for the time being.

Rumor has it that these bill *may* not progress further... for now. **Keep in mind that bills like this frequently re-surface closer to the end of session, sometimes as amendments or budget bills.**



Constituent involvement is still vital to keep these bills from moving. Please click the links above to use Phone2Action again, this time sending a message to your own district's lawmakers.

More Secular Invocations

We are continuing to make progress for secular invocations at the State Legislature.

We'd like to thank [Sen. David Bradley, Dr. Wanda Tucker \(guest of Rep. Gerae Peten\)](#), and [Rep. Kirsten Engel](#) for secular invocations given this past month!

Without invoking a sect or deity, these lawmakers used their prayer time to reflect respectfully on Jewish history, Black history, and the Declaration of Independence. Their reflections were inclusive, philosophical and articulate—a great way to start off a floor session!



Click any of the lawmaker names above to watch their invocations.

Events

**SECULAR
AZ DAY AT THE
CAPITOL**

Meet Secular Superstar

**JUAN
MENDEZ**

AZ State Senator, LD26

FEB 24TH SECULAR
AZ

REGISTER ON SECULARAZ.ORG

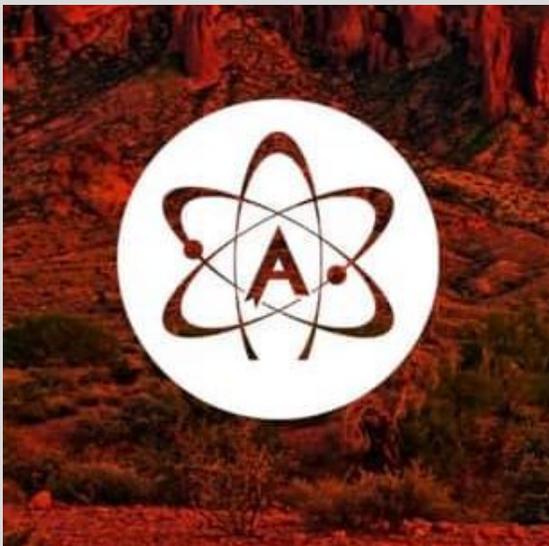
Secular Summit

Join us on February 24, 2020, for our 7th Annual Secular Day at the Capitol.

Secular Star lawmakers including Senator Juan Mendez and Athena Salman will also be on hand to lead tours, speak, and meet with constituents!

David Tamayo, Founder and President of [Hispanic Freethinkers \(HAFree\)](#), will deliver the keynote address.

Don't delay... it's just a month away! Register online for free [here](#).



American Atheists Convention

Hundreds of atheists will gather in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, from Thursday, April 9 through Sunday, April 12 for the annual American Atheists National Convention.

Join us to take part in the presentations, social events, comedy and game nights, workshops, exhibits, networking, and community events that make this conference the highlight of the year for hundreds of American atheists.

Learn more [here](#).

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Membership

