



2015 Legislative Wrap-Up

52nd Legislature 1st Regular Session

January 2015 – April 2015

Secular Coalition for Arizona

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Secular Coalition for Arizona: Our Purpose and our Thanks

Secular Coalition for Arizona (Secular AZ) is a 501 (c) 4 organization dedicated to ending religious intrusion in civil government, particularly where this intrusion marginalizes religious minorities or nonbelievers, or results in discrimination against politically vulnerable groups of people.

Our organization has a clear objective – to actively oppose Arizona bills and legislative activities that privilege one religion over other religions or no religion, or that use law to force the entire state to conform to practices based solely on religious doctrines or concepts of morality. Conversely, we support legislation that safeguards, strengthens and rebuilds the wall of protection between church and state.

Secular AZ takes no political stand and supports no political party. Instead, we focus solely on legislation and actions by public officials and agencies that hinder church/state separation in Arizona's public policies.

Thank you

To Our Supporters and Donors

We work collaboratively with our many liaised organizations, allies and the broader community to accomplish these ends, and are immensely grateful for their personal and financial support. We are happy to note that our supporters include Arizonans who span the range from varied communities of faith to the varieties of non-believers. They share a passion to prevent religious views from being imposed on Arizona citizens by force of law. We thank those who have joined with us in opposing legislation that tramples on this constitutionally guaranteed freedom.

Special acknowledgement go to our board of directors, whose commitment to our cause and tireless efforts has been the engine of our growth.

We work together in common cause.

To Our Legislators

Our special thanks to members of both the Arizona House of Representatives and Senate, who met regularly with our constituents and our Director of Government Affairs, Tory Anderson, during the 2015 session, listened openly to our concerns, and demonstrated their support for secular government. We acknowledge the contributions of these legislators with 'secular credit':

Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford

Representative Juan Mendez

Representative Rebecca Rios

Representative Andrew Sherwood

Representative Bruce Wheeler



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Message from the Chairman, Zenaido Quintana

Welcome to our 2015 Legislative Wrap-up. This is a brief summary of how Secular Coalition for Arizona (Secular AZ) took action during the most recent state legislative session to combat religious intrusion into civil law and to ensure a secular state government. We include highlights of constituent activities, such as our 2015 Secular Lobby Day at the Capitol, which provided supporters from all over the state an opportunity to meet with their legislators and mingle with other like-minded secular constituents.

This was a particularly challenging session, due to the results of the November 2014 elections. Our newly elected Governor, Doug Ducey, and some Arizona state legislators have strong ties to the religious right lobbying organization, the Center for Arizona Policy, or 'CAP.' This made our lobbying efforts more pressing and complicated.

Nevertheless, we made progress on a variety of fronts. First, we saw evidence that our lobbying and advocacy impact is not confined to each legislative session, but is ongoing and cumulative. Most of the dangerous bills that we defeated last year did not return this session. In particular, SB 1062, the 'Religious Privilege bill, that would have enabled discrimination against LGBTQ citizens based on 'religious freedom' was not resurrected in 2015. This is in great part due to lobbying and grassroots advocacy last year by Secular AZ and its allies that resulted in public outcry, national and international media coverage and ultimate veto by then-Governor Jan Brewer. Although similar bills have popped up in many other states since that time, SB 1062 was not resurrected during the 2015 Arizona legislative session.

Second, while the increased pressure from CAP made it more difficult to derail the bills we opposed, we had positive effect on amendments that lessened their negative impact. One example is SB 1318, the bill that prevents women in Arizona who seek an abortion from obtaining insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act Federal Exchange. Through intense Secular AZ lobbying and support from legislators, the bill was amended to exclude those woman who seek abortion due to rape or incest. We made a terrible bill less harmful in an important way.

Third, we are witnessing positive movement in the number of Republican legislators who are receptive to our efforts. While Secular AZ is a nonpartisan organization, Republicans have traditionally been less receptive to secular public policy and separation of church and state than Democrats. We see this trend shifting, due in part to public support of our lobbying efforts and relationships built with legislators on both sides of the aisle.

Finally, while Secular AZ exists in part to advocate on behalf of nontheists in Arizona, our lobbying efforts are aimed at ensuring a secular government, a goal that many faith-based individuals and organizations also support. They recognize that church/state separation is essential to protect true freedom of thought and religious practice. We invite participation of all individuals and groups who wish to join us in pursuit of our common goal.



The Gathering Storm

I end on a serious yet hopeful note. The religious right lobby, the Center for Arizona Policy, is a significant and continuing threat to secular government in Arizona, and similar religious right lobbying entities are at work all over our nation. There is a concerted effort by those who consider the United States a “Christian nation” to enact more and more laws that inject religious tenets into law, promote discrimination based on religious grounds and accomplish these ends through taxpayer funding.

In Arizona, we need a more focused effort by all supporters of secular public policy to oppose this dangerous trend. We must also strengthen our financial resources in order to effectively counter CAP, an extremely well funded and well-staffed enemy of secular state government. We’ll concentrate our efforts in these areas during the months to come.

For a detailed explanation of our position on specific issues, and for more about our organization, liaised organizations and activities, please visit www.secularAZ.org, or contact me directly at zenaido@secularaz.org

Sincerely,

Zenaido Quintana
Chairman of the Board and Acting Executive Director
Secular Coalition for Arizona



Section 1 **Arizona Legislative Highlights: 2015 Session**

The 2015 Arizona legislative session began on January 12, 2015, with new legislators elected during the November 2014 midterms and a new Governor, Doug Ducey. Governor Ducey promised to focus on expanding Arizona's economy and to work in a bi-partisan spirit with all lawmakers.

Eighty-two days later, the shortest session since 1968, the legislature ended the session sine die. The session ended filled with gifts to special interest groups, including more public dollars for private religious education, unprecedented tax breaks for churches, and an attack on abortion rights that includes more burdens on Arizona women seeking safe, legal abortions and a junk science mandate to doctors.

Legislative Climate and Challenges

Both Governor Ducey and many newly elected members of the House of Representatives and Senate were supported by the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), the religious right organization led by Cathi Herrod. Herrod was a top policy advisor to Governor Ducey during his campaign, and hosted a post-election 'victory party' attended by the Governor and CAP-endorsed members of the legislature.

CAP has claimed success for driving 130 bills into law since 1995. These laws have helped to privilege religious organizations, heighten discrimination, and blunt the positive effects of a secular government.

We knew going into the 2015 session that:

- CAP-endorsed legislation would have a higher profile based on the new makeup of the House and Senate. And if this legislation passed, there was a high likelihood that Governor Ducey would sign the bills.
- Legislation that could strengthen secular government and support our issues would not be considered by a legislature so influenced by CAP's lobbying efforts and strong connections to legislators and the Governor.

Several CAP-endorsed bills were introduced during this legislative session, and Governor Ducey signed each one that landed on his desk. Luckily, not every bill made it that far, thanks to forceful and ultimately successful lobbying and grassroots advocacy by Secular AZ, our liaised organizations, allies and the broader community. Our collective ability to beat back these bills has helped to weaken the overall legislative influence of CAP. Nevertheless, this heavily financed religious right lobby continues to be the strongest challenge to church/state separation in our state.



2015 Bills of Interest

We identified 31 bills of interest. Some were ones that we would have been happy to support. One would have made it a crime to discriminate in employment or housing based on sexual orientation or gender identity; multiple bills would have reversed the prohibitions and restrictions on a woman's access to reproductive healthcare.

Unfortunately, the best of these bills were never heard in committee, and we found ourselves playing defense against nine pieces of legislation that presented a threat to secular government. Of these nine, four were signed into law, but five never made it to the governor's desk.

Our Director of Government Affairs, Tory Anderson, continued to support our legislative efforts during the session, and is helping to present results to our Liaised organizations, allies and other groups. The daily presence of Tory and other members of Secular AZ's Legislative Affairs team at the Statehouse helped immensely to raise our lobbying profile and influence. These presentations, previously provided to our liaised organizations, have been requested by a growing number of groups beyond our core constituency. They, too, are eager to join Secular AZ in our advocacy for constructive, responsible secular state government.

2015 Legislative Wins for Secular Government

Note: SB = Senate Bill, HB = House Bill

Legislative 'wins' in a political climate such as Arizona's include bills we didn't see during the session, as well as bills we did. Let's start with what we didn't see:

- **Bad bills from 2014 that did not return in this session**

Due to legislative and grassroots lobbying efforts during the 2014 session, bills that presented a significant threat to church/state separation were not resurrected during the 2015 session. The non-return of these bills was a definite 'win' for secular government and underscores the importance of Secular AZ's professional lobbying effort:

- **SB 1062**, titled 'Exercise of Religion, State Action', but labeled by us 'The Discrimination Bill', would have allowed businesses to discriminate in housing, hiring, firing, or providing services based on religious preference. The bill passed in 2014, but was vetoed by then-Governor Brewer after immense public outcry. Secular AZ, our liaised organizations and allies were directly responsible for generating public awareness of this dangerous bill.
- **HB 2481, Solemnization of Marriage Bill**, another 2014 discriminatory piece of legislation, would have allowed anyone authorized by the state of Arizona to perform marriages, including judges and justices of the peace, to refuse to perform a ceremony if the content violated their religious beliefs.

- **Bad bills in 2015 that did not become law**

This legislative session, the Center for Arizona Policy pushed school voucher bills and school tuition tax credit bills. Both are education programs that divert public education funds to religious schools.



Here are the legislative ‘wins’ that we did see – bills introduced in this session to privilege religion at taxpayer expense that did not become law. Once again, Secular AZ’s Director of Government Affairs, Tory Anderson, was heavily involved in working with legislators to push back against these bills.

- **School Voucher bills: Four* out of five died** (*HB 2174, HB 2250, SB 1088, SB 1434).

Often, lawmakers who support expanding the state’s school voucher system, known as ‘Empowerment Scholarship Accounts’, will run more than one bill to broaden the program in different ways. This year, five separate bills were introduced, but only one made it to the Governor’s desk and was subsequently signed. Some of these voucher bills were voted on numerous times, each time failing, then being brought back for another vote under a legislative move called ‘Reconsideration.’

The fact that four out of five school voucher bills did not make it to the Governor’s desk is a ‘win’ for secular government.

- **Only one of two bills passed that expanded taxpayer funding of private religious education (HB 2152 & HB 2153).**

School Tuition Organizations (STOs) take donations from taxpayers who then receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on their tax return. Parents can apply for scholarships and use these funds for private schools, including private religious education. This year, the legislature attempted to expand the program in two ways, but ultimately a political deal was struck where only one of the two bills, HB 2153 (Corporate Scholarship Tax Credit Expansion – Small Business), made it through.

The fact that one of these dangerous bills was blocked was a win for secular government.

- **HB 2283, Neglect; Prayer; Religious Beliefs; Exception**, would have allowed parents to seek ‘faith healing’ for their children without being found neglectful by the State Department of Child Safety. Although introduced in 2015, this bill never had a hearing.

The Fight Against SB 1318 and HB 2128

Junk Science in Law: The Disturbing Story of SB 1318

SB 1318 (abortion; health care exchange; licensing) began, innocuously enough, as textbook anti-abortion and anti-Affordable Health Care legislation, heavily supported by CAP, the religious right lobby. There were several stipulations especially troubling to Secular AZ. As introduced, the bill:

- prohibited private health insurance providers who sell their insurance on the Federal Exchange from supplying coverage for abortion – even in the case of rape or incest.
- mandated that the personal identification of physicians who prescribed the ‘morning after’ pill would become public – clearly exposing these medical professionals to criticism from anti-abortion proponents.

The bill passed quickly through committee in the Senate. We lobbied hard against this legislation, and fortunately, it was amended on the Senate floor – to include an exception for rape or incest. Senator



Katie Hobbs also tried to protect physicians' private information through an amendment, but the measure failed.

In the House of Representatives, the bill was first heard and amended in the Federalism and States' Rights Committee, rather than the Health Committee, as one would logically expect. The amendment stipulated that:

- doctors who prescribe the morning-after pill are required to tell women that the procedure is reversible but that "time is of the essence." This advice is neither medically accurate nor scientifically proven.
- the Department of Health Services (DHS) must include information about the reversal procedure and where to access the 'how-to' information on their website.

The House Rules attorney cautioned lawmakers that this bill would trigger a lawsuit because medical professionals cannot give advice that is not medically sound. The bill passed anyway. Governor Ducey signed, stating SB 1318 would "save taxpayer dollars from funding abortion". The Governor failed to even mention the questionable medical reversal requirements included within this bill.

The good news? This bill will most likely be challenged in court. The bad news: the litigation will be at taxpayer expense.

"It Should Be This Difficult": Why We Opposed HB 2128

Arizona's constitution provides for a property tax exemption for religious, charitable, or educational organizations that own property where they operate. HB 2128 singled out for privilege only one group from this list – religious organizations – and gave them a further exemption on property they lease. This was, of course, a CAP-backed bill.

This bill was introduced in last year's session, and we lobbied heavily against it. Though it passed in both houses, it was vetoed by then-Governor Brewer, citing complications in property tax laws and enforcement concerns.

Secular AZ was directly responsible for the opposition to HB 2128, causing the Center for Arizona Policy to lament in an email to supporters that "it shouldn't be this difficult". Well, they're right in one respect. Without our concentrated opposition, this bill would have slipped under the radar and quietly passed into law – a common legislative tactic behind CAP-endorsed bills.

This year, the Center for Arizona Policy had to work hard and spend resources to pass this unprecedented tax break for churches. HB 2128, innocuously titled 'Leased Property, Class Nine', expanded religious privilege in tax law by exempting churches that lease property for their operations from absorbing the cost of property tax. Through legislative research, we determined that HB 2128 would cost the Arizona General Fund \$2.1M. In addition this law could result in reduced county services and increased property taxes foisted on the general public.

This tax break for churches is unprecedented. Our Government Affairs staff researched the issue and found that not a single state in the union offers such privilege solely to churches. There are a handful of states that provide the 'use' exemption to churches, schools, and charities, but none single out churches alone.



We launched a direct lobbying campaign to the legislature and the Governor's Office. We also organized grassroots advocacy, urged our supporters to contact their elected county assessors, and sought significant media attention to this bill.

Defeating the bill became a bipartisan effort, with two Republican lawmakers in the House voting 'no.' Unfortunately, the measure narrowly passed both houses, and was subsequently signed into law by Governor Ducey.

Section II

Constituent Communications and Allied Activities

2015 Secular Lobby Day

On Thursday, March 26, supporters from around Arizona gathered at the Capitol for our 2015 Secular Lobby Day. They met with legislators, were provided a tour of both houses, and had the opportunity to meet and mingle with other Secular AZ supporters who believe strongly in separation of church and state. Our supporters were publicly recognized from the floor of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Several legislators helped make our Lobby Day a success. Our thanks to Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford, who provided a tour of the Senate and met with our Southern Arizona delegation, and to Representative Juan Mendez, who hosted a tour of the House of Representatives and gave a secular invocation from the House Floor. Attendees were also treated to a lunchtime visit and remarks from Representative Bruce Wheeler.

Constituent Communications

The Secular Coalition for Arizona is only as strong as our constituents. We emphasize information exchange, education and interaction that strengthen our collective secular voice to the legislature.

Communications include:

- Weekly Secular AZ legislative update to our email list
- Weekly 'insider information' legislative update phone call with our liaised organizations
- Action Alerts on bills that require constituent influence
- Social media updates on Facebook & Twitter @secularaz
- Website updates: www.secularAZ.org



Allied Activities

Secular AZ joins with various allied organizations – ones that may not have a formal affiliation with our organization, but that share our view on specific legislation. We work on a personal level with our allies, phoning or meeting with them in person to discuss our common concerns and appropriate actions.

Allies that strengthened our efforts during this and past legislative sessions include influential nonprofits such as Planned Parenthood, the ACLU of Arizona, Arizona Education Association, Arizona School Boards Association, and LGBTQ organizations including Equality Arizona and HERO. We are grateful for their willing participation.

Section III Media Mentions

Secular AZ reached out regularly to the press regarding legislation and issues of interest. Our Director of Government Affairs, Tory Anderson, and members of the board have been interviewed by top journalists and have issued statements to the press regarding our view of potential and existing Arizona law.

Here is a sample of articles that were based on interviews with Tory Anderson regarding 2015 legislation that posed a threat to secular government in Arizona. Our Executive Director, Zenaïdo Quintana, was also interviewed for Channel 3 broadcast news segments.

Ronald Hansen, [Churches Could See Tax-Free Rent Under Legislation](#), *Arizona Republic*, January 27, 2015

Matthew Hendley, [Proposed Tax Break for Religious Organizations Protested at State Capitol](#), *Phoenix New Times*, March 2, 2015

Matthew Hendley, [New Tax Break for Religious Groups, Once Vetoed by Jan Brewer, Makes a Comeback](#), *Phoenix New Times*. February 28, 2015

Johanna Willett, [Secular Coalition Lobbyist Discusses Religion, Politics](#), *Arizona Daily Star*, February 13, 2015

Section IV Addendum

- A. Secular Coalition for Arizona Board and Staff
- B. Our Coalition Partners
- C. 2015 Legislator 'Secular Credit' and Legislative Scorecard



A. Secular Coalition for Arizona Board and Staff

Board of Directors

- Chairman **Zenaido Quintana**, zenaido@secularaz.org
- Vice-Chairman **Matt Schoenley**, matt@secularaz.org
- Treasurer & Secretary **J. Michael Shelton**, mike@secularaz.org
- Member-At-Large **Anne Mardick**
- Member-At-Large **Alan Newman**

Staff

Director of Government Affairs **Tory Anderson**, tory@secularaz.org

To learn more about our board please visit www.secularAZ.org

B. Our Coalition Partners

Liaised Organizations

- [Americans United for Separation of Church and State Greater Phoenix Chapter](#)
- [Camp Quest Arizona](#)
- [Flagstaff Freethinkers](#)
- [Freedom From Religion Foundation Valley of the Sun Chapter](#)
- [Freethought Arizona](#)
- [Good Without God](#)
- [Humanist Society of Greater Phoenix](#)
- [Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers Arizona Delegation](#)
- [Or Adam Congregation for Humanistic Judaism](#)
- [Phoenix Atheist Meetup Group](#)
- [Prescott Freethinkers](#)
- [Secular Humanist Jewish Circle \(SHJC\)](#)
- [Secular Student Alliance at Mesa Community College](#)
- [Secular Student Alliance at Northern Arizona University](#)
- [Sedona/Verde Valley Secular Freethinkers](#)
- [Tucson Atheists](#)



C. 2015 Legislator 'Secular Credit' and Legislative Scorecard

In order to present a fair picture of how legislators voted, and to provide opportunity to accumulate a voting record, bills are listed that were heard and voted on during third read in each body.

Scoring Methodology

For each legislator, the secular score is derived by dividing the legislator's total floor votes cast that are in agreement with Secular AZ's position by the total number of bills on which Secular AZ took a position.

**Note: if the scorecard is blank for a vote, it means the legislator did not vote and is not included in the total possible votes.

2015 Secular Credit Recipients

During the 2015 legislative session, the following five elected officials exhibited outstanding respect and support for secular public policy making and were recognized by receiving 'Secular Credit' from Secular AZ.

- **Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford**, for acknowledging 'Darwin Day'8 on February 12 and being a member of Freethought Arizona. Senator Cajero Bedford introduced Secular AZ members on the Senate floor during our Secular Lobby Day activities, and hosted our Southern Arizona members for a private tour of the Senate. Senator Cajero Bedford is a true advocate for Secular Public Policy in the Arizona State Senate.
- **Representative Andrew Sherwood**, for his help in combating HB 2128, the religious privilege in leased property tax bill, both behind the scenes and on the House floor.
- **Representative Juan Mendez**, for offering a 'Secular Invocation' on the House floor and giving a tour of the House of Representatives to the secular community on Lobby Day. Representative Mendez also stood with the SC Arizona in opposition to the Governor's Office of Faith and Community Partnerships, and is our greatest ally in the Arizona House of Representatives.
- **Representative Bruce Wheeler**, for his leadership in opposition to HB 2128, the religious privilege in leased property tax bill, on the House floor and in committee.
- **Representative Rebecca Rios**, for publicly stating her appreciation for our stance against the abortion bill because of our comments on the need for separation of church and state.

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2015 Legislative Scorecard

House Votes

			HB2128: Leased Religious Property; Class Nine	HB2152: School Tuition Organizations; Luxury Tax Credits	HB2153: Tax Credits; STOs; Preapproval; Entities	HB2174: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Grandchildren	HB2250: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Grandchildren	SB1318: Abortion; Healthcare Exchange; Licensure	SB1332: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Open Enrollment	2015 Score	Secular Credit
Ackerly	2	R	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	
J. Allen	15	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Alston	24	D	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Andrade	29	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Barton	6	R	x	x	x	x	NV	x	x	0%	
Benally	7	D	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Bolding	27	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	100%	
Borrelli	5	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Bowers	25	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Boyer	20	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Brophy McGee	28	R	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓	57%	
Campbell	1	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Cardenas	19	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Carter	15	R	✓	✓	x	✓	x	NV	✓	67%	
Clark	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Cobb	5	R	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	14%	
Coleman	16	R	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	57%	
Espinoza	19	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Fann	1	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
E. Farnsworth	12	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Fernandez	4	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Finchem	11	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Friese	9	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Gabaldon	2	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Gonzalez	3	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Gowan	14	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Gray	21	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Hale	7	D	✓	✓	NV	✓	NV	✓	✓	100%	
Kern	20	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Larkin	30	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	

Scorecard Methodology

In order to give a fair picture of how legislators voted on Secular Issues, we list only the bills that were heard and voted on for 3rd read in each body. This gives all legislators a fair chance to vote on issues important to the Secular Community.

We used simple math to figure the Secular Score for each legislator. The legislator's score is derived by taking the votes in favor of secular public policy and dividing by the total number of votes on secular public policy.

****Note:** if the scorecard shows "NV" for a vote, that means the legislator did not vote on the bill. It does not imply a "yes" or a "no" vote, and therefore we did not include that in their total.

Secular Credit - Some legislators receive "Secular Credit" for taking extra steps to support Secular Public Policy.

HB2128: Leased Religious Property; Class Nine

What it does: Provides a tax exemption to religious groups that lease property, by requiring the property owner to pass the tax savings along to the religious tenant.

Our Position: Oppose. This unprecedented bill privileges churches over charities.

Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey

HB2153: Tax Credits; STOs; Preapproval; Entities

What it does: Expands the State School Tuition Tax credit program (STO), which provides scholarships to students to attend private schools.

Our Position: Oppose. These scholarships allow the public funding of religious education.

Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey

HB2152: School Tuition Organizations; Luxury Tax Credits

What it does: Expands the State School Tuition Tax credit program (STO), which provides scholarships to students to attend private schools.

Our Position: Oppose. These scholarships allow the public funding of religious education.

Final Disposition: Failed on House floor.



2015 Legislative Scorecard

House Votes

HB2174: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Grandchildren
What it does: Expands the Empowerment Scholarship Account eligibility to children who are raised by their grandparents.
Our Position: Oppose. These scholarships allow the public funding of religious education.
Final Disposition: Failed on House floor.

HB2250: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts: Applications
What it does: Expands the Empowerment Scholarship Account eligibility to include siblings of current recipients, allows for an expansion of use of the money, and makes various changes to procedure in administering the accounts.
Our Position: Oppose. The Empowerment program allows for public funding of private religious education.
Final Disposition: Passed House; Amended in Senate; Amended Bill Failed in House.

SB1318: Abortion; Healthcare Exchange; Licensure
What it does: Prohibits a private insurance company from offering coverage for abortion if the insurance is sold on the Federal Health Exchange. Requires medical professionals who prescribe the morning after pill to inform women that the procedure is reversible. Requires Dept. of Health Services website to direct women to doctors who provide this treatment.
Our Position: Oppose. The “reversal” treatment is experimental. It is not based on scientific evidence and is not FDA-approved. Restricting coverage on the federal health exchange is restricting a woman’s access to affordable health care. Laws and regulations on women’s healthcare should be based on scientifically sound medical research and driven by a compelling government interest, not sectarian religious beliefs.
Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey

SB1332: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Open Enrollment
What it does: Expands the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts eligibility to children living on Indian reservations.
Our Position: Oppose. See above (SB1088)
Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey

H2128: Leased Religious Property; Class Nine
H2152: School Tuition Organizations; Luxury Tax Credits
H2153: Tax Credits; STO's; Preapproval; Entities
H2174: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts
H2250: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Grandchildren
S1318: Abortion; Healthcare Exchange; Licensure
S1332: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Open Enrollment
2015 Score
Secular Credit

Lawrence	23	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Leach	11	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Livingston	22	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Lovas	22	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Mach	10	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
McCune	30	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	
Davis	26	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	★
Mendez	26	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	★
Mesnard	17	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Meyer	28	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	100%	
Mitchell	13	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Montenegro	13	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Norgaard	18	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Olson	25	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Otondo	4	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Petersen	12	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Pratt	8	R	NV	x	✓	x	x	NV	x	x	20%	
Rios	27	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	★
Rivero	21	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Robson	18	R	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	57%	
Saldate	3	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Sherwood	26	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	★
Shope	8	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Steele	9	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Stevens	14	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Thorpe	6	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Townsend	16	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Ugenti	23	R	x	x	x	x	NV	x	x	x	0%	
Velasquez	29	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Weninger	17	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	
Wheeler	10	D	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	★

**Senate
Votes**

H2128: Leased Religious Property; Class Nine
H2153: Tax Credits; STOS; Preapproval; Entities
H2250: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Applications
S1088: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Eligibility
S1318: Abortion; Healthcare Exchange; Licensure
S1332: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Open Enrollment
2015 Score
Secular Credit

Member	Bill	Y	N	AB	Exc	Other	Score	Secular Credit
Ableser	26 D	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	100%	
S. Allen	6 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Barto	15 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Begay	7 D	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	50%	
Biggs	12 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Bradley	10 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Burges	22 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Cajero Bedford	3 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	★
Contreras	19 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Dalessandro	2 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Dial	18 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Driggs	28 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Farley	9 D	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
D. Farnsworth	16 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Griffin	14 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Hobbs	24 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Kavanagh	23 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Lesko	21 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
McGuire	8 D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	83%	
Meza	30 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	83%	
Miranda	27 D	✗	✓	✓	NV	✗	40%	
Pancrazi	4 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Pierce	1 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	NV	0%	
Quezada	29 D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
Shooter	13 R	✗	NV	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Smith	11 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Ward	5 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Worsley	25 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Yarbrough	17 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	
Yee	20 R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	

HB2128: Leased Religious Property; Class Nine
What it does: Provides a tax exemption to religious groups that lease property, by requiring the property owner to pass the tax savings along to the religious tenant.
Our Position: Oppose. This unprecedented bill privileges churches over charities.
Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey

HB2153: Tax Credits; STOs; Preapproval; Entities
What it does: Expands the State School Tuition Tax credit program (STO), which provides scholarships to students to attend private schools.
Our Position: Oppose. These scholarships allow the public funding of religious education.
Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey

HB2250: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts: Applications
What it does: Expands the Empowerment Scholarship Account eligibility to include siblings of current recipients, allows for an expansion of use of the money, and makes various changes to procedure in administering the accounts.
Our Position: Oppose. The Empowerment program allows for public funding of private religious education.
Final Disposition: Passed House; Amended in Senate; Amended Bill Failed in House.

SB1088: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Eligibility
What it does: Expands the Empowerment Scholarship Account eligibility to include students who have received a scholarship from a School Tuition Organization
Our Position: Oppose. The Empowerment program allows for public funding of private religious education.
Final Disposition: Retained on House Floor

SB1318: Abortion; Healthcare Exchange; Licensure
What it does: Prohibits a private insurance company from offering coverage for abortion if the insurance is sold on the Federal Health Exchange. Requires medical professionals who prescribe the morning after pill to inform women that the procedure is reversible. Requires Dept. of Health Services website to direct women to doctors who provide this treatment.
Our Position: Oppose. The "reversal" treatment is experimental. It is not based on scientific evidence and is not FDA-approved. Restricting coverage on the federal health exchange is restricting a woman's access to affordable health care. Laws and regulations on women's healthcare should be based on scientifically sound medical research and driven by a compelling government interest, not sectarian religious beliefs.
Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey

SB1332: Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Open Enrollment
What it does: Expands the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts eligibility to children living on Indian reservations.
Our Position: Oppose. See above (SB1088)
Final Disposition: Signed into law by Gov. Ducey