

Let's get on this!

There's a new bill **HB 2456 which is open in RTS**. The bill will require a presidential candidate to provide federal and state income tax returns for the previous five years to the Secretary of State in order to appear on the general ballot. If not provided by the deadline, they will be ineligible to appear on the general ballot, as will candidates for presidential elector for the political party the presidential candidate is in.

CALL TO ACTION

These bills are being fast-tracked. SB1281 and SB1431 are headed to the floor. Two identical companion bills, HB2394 and HB2465, are scheduled for the House Education Committee on Monday at 2 PM.

PLEASE call your state senator and representatives (find their numbers at azleg.gov). **Use RTS to register your opposition to the House bills.**

And go to the Capitol and speak at Monday's hearing if you can.

I was at the hearing for SB1431 today. The Senate Education Committee clearly didn't expect so many people to show up in opposition to the bill. They finally declared a recess and continued the hearing in the afternoon. What we are doing is having an impact. **We just need to keep it up. #persist**

<http://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2017/02/09/senate-panel-approves-major-expansion-of-school-choice-program/>

POST TO DEBBIE LESKO'S FACEBOOKPAGE

For those following education-related bills, especially SB1431, that expands "Empowerment Scholarships" by taking more money out of public education and putting it in the hands of private and Christian schools, please go comment on Senator Debbie Lesko's FB page. It's her bill. She's an awful Trump/DeVos supporter. Registering our dissent on her FB page is a quick and easy way to make our presence felt.

<https://www.facebook.com/debbie.lesko.75>

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https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/vv_trump_ad?refcode=ads_facebook_170206a

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

SB1431 passed out of committee. Kate Brophy McGee (R-28) was the lone Republican nay. She is not known for bucking the trend, and was clearly rattled, so please throw her some love: 602-926-4486 / kbrophymcgee@azleg.gov. If you are her constituent, say so.

ASK McCAIN & FLAKE TO CALL...

Let's Get More Efficient & Effective *** Ask Your Arizona Congressional Reps to Call House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) Themselves!! ***. Slight change in strategy, rather than us just calling our reps to support, get them to start calling their peers!

*** Ask Judiciary Chair to support Congressman Jerry Nadler's 'Resolution of Inquiry' to investigate Trump's conflicts of interest and possible ties to Russia. Provide them his number as a courtesy. 202-225-5431

<http://nadler.house.gov/press-release/congressman-nadler-introduces-resolution-inquiry-force-gop-vote-trump's-conflicts>

PROTESTS/EVENTS

[#McCainMondays](#).

EVERY Monday at Noon-1PM, take a stand for sane government as part of We will assemble on the sidewalk in front of Senator John McCain's office at 2201 E. Camelback Rd, Phoenix (SE Corner) to let the senator know that we reject the alarming developments in the new Trump administration, including (but not limited to):

BRING SIGNS

* The punitive "Immigration Order" banning refugees

- The plan to build a border wall with Mexico
- Attacks on the Affordable Care Act
- Attacks on the EPA
- Nominations of unqualified Cabinet members

Everyone is invited to bring their letters and expressions of concern to Senator McCain.

Please park off-site...THERE IS NO PARKING AT OR AROUND THE BUILDING.

PROTEST TO OPPOSE SCHOOL VOUCHER EXPANSION

Monday, FEB 13TH at 8 AM - 5 PM

Az State Capitol 1700 W Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

HB 2394 to expand school vouchers in AZ. The pro-voucher people are organized; we should be too!

BRING SIGNS

HEARING AT 2PM

Bill Overview: <https://apps.azleg.gov/Billsatus/BillOverview/69397> Bill Text: <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/53leg/1R/bills/HB2394P.htm>

EXCELLENT ADVICE FROM BERNEICE KING (MLK'S DAUGHTER)

"Keep demonstrations peaceful. In the words of John Lennon, "When it gets down to having to use violence, then you are playing the system's game. The establishment will irritate you – pull your beard, flick your face – to make you fight! Because once they've got you violent, then they know how to handle you. The only thing they don't know how to handle is non-violence and humor."

“When you post or talk about him, don’t assign his actions to him, assign them to “The Republican Administration,” or “The Republicans.” This will have several effects: the Republican legislators will either have to take responsibility for their association with him or stand up for what some of them don’t like; he will not get the focus of attention he craves; Republican representatives will become very concerned about their re-elections.”

POSSIBLE TOWN HALL!

AZ CD6 Schweikert constituents. **His Scottsdale office says there will be an announcement next Tue-Wed for a town hall.** There will be follow up posted on FB. If you want to call, his only AZ office number is 480-946-2411

NEW ACTION ITEM

CALL/EMAIL/FAX YOUR OPPOSITION (you can’t use RTS at this time)

OPPOSE [HB2300](#)

OPPOSE [HB2295](#)

Background info:

Let me start by giving you our mission as mandated by the Arizona Supreme Court.

[The State Bar of Arizona exists to serve and protect the public with respect to the provision of legal services and access to justice.](#) Consistent with these goals, the State Bar of Arizona seeks to improve the administration of justice and the competency, ethics, and professionalism of lawyers practicing in Arizona.

Our goal is simple: We help attorneys reach the highest levels of skill and professionalism so that the public is better protected.

We are unusual in that we are a private/non-profit given authority by the court to regulate attorneys. 32 other states have mandatory bars as well. While opponents argue that it forces association in violation of the Constitution, the US Supreme Court (through various rulings) has allowed mandatory bars to exist.

There are currently two bills at the legislature that would change the bar’s focus and structure. [HB2300](#) would eliminate the mandatory bar and move all regulation to the state. Interestingly enough, that would require growing state government by an estimated 60 to 65 positions. While regulation of the practice of law would continue, what would be lost are the programs designed to help and protect attorneys. For example, currently the Bar manages programs like an ethics hotline and a fee arbitration service. While some of those programs could be taken on by voluntary bars, the concern is that they would no longer be available to every attorney without an additional fee. Our mission from the Arizona Supreme Court also requires the bar to improve access to justice throughout the state. That goal would be lost as a result of HB2300.

[HB2295](#) would create a two-tiered fee structure for the State Bar of Arizona. There would be a “mandatory” fee to cover regulation and a limited number of programs (such as the client protection fund). However, many of the other services (such as the ethics hotline) would be covered by a separate “voluntary” fee. The fallacy is that the other programs are not necessary. As mentioned above, every program managed by the bar is designed to improve attorney skill and professionalism. Allowing attorneys to opt out of programs reduces our ability to help ensure clients and the public are protected. Interestingly, HB2295 would still require mandatory membership, it would merely reduce the fee. It also leaves vague the concept of whether the regulation functions would be housed at the court or the Bar.

Some opponents of the bar have argued that we are expensive compared to other states. While we are at the higher end of the scale, Arizona's Bar is seen as a model throughout the nation for both efficiency and effectiveness. Interestingly, as of yet there has been no fiscal note attached to these bills. What would it cost to move regulation to the state?

Perhaps even more concerning was that during the House Judiciary and Public Safety hearing on these two bills, very little was mentioned about protecting the public. Will changing the current structure help improve the skill and professionalism of attorneys?

These bills mirror two others that failed to pass the legislature last year. HB2221 passed the house by one vote. However, not only did the state's Democratic caucus stand firm against the bills, but enough Republicans senators voted against HB2221 that it did not pass.

There is also one significant issue. The State Bar of Arizona falls under the Jurisdiction of the Arizona Supreme Court. There is a significant separation of powers issue. It would require the legislature to usurp control of a court controlled function. There is a process for changing the Bar's structure through a rule petition. In fact, there is a pending rule petition from the Goldwater Institute. While our organization opposes the proposal, we do accept this is the correct forum. The legislature's attempt creates a constitutional problem.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. [We'd love any support we can get in convincing legislators that these bills are misguided and potentially unconstitutional.](#) I'm attaching a fact sheet on the rules petition.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.



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