



Who's for Kids  
And who's just  
kidding?

# A Legislative Report Card

June 2017

## Arizona Lawmakers Leave Kids Behind



Governor Doug Ducey packaged the 2017 legislative session with ribbons and bows for moms and children. But inside the pretty packages are numerous laws he signed with hazardous materials that endanger health, education and security for Arizona kids. Arizona remains an outlier in the nation with the lowest rates of child care assistance, the shortest lifetime time limit for TANF to help children get out of poverty,

and the lowest teacher salaries.

Throughout the session, many state senators and representatives denied responsibility for leaving kids behind. Instead, they pointed to the last recession, blamed struggling parents, faulted voters for raising the state minimum wage, and vilified cities and school boards.

Our beautiful state deserves more. Arizonans expect the people in power to step up and make the policy decisions that will build a better future. We can brag about our fast growing population, a new Intel plant in Chandler, and a few selective charter schools. But our state can only truly reach our world-class dreams if we give every child a chance to reach his or hers.



## 2017 Priority Legislation Affecting Arizona Families

This report card scores state lawmakers on four key bills that passed and were signed into law in 2017. During this session, Children's Action Alliance focused on the fundamental need for reinvestment in public education. We opposed the first three bills described here because they leave public schools without a competitive workforce, safe facilities, and updated classroom textbooks and technology. We supported the fourth bill to give abused and neglected youth an opportunity for a stronger transition into adulthood.

SB 1431 – Expands Empowerment Scholarship Accounts – ESA Vouchers --  
to all Arizona students in private schools

*Sponsored by Representative John Allen and Senator Debbie Lesko  
with a floor amendment sponsored by Senator Bob Worsley*

This expansion of ESA vouchers allows subsidies for private schools for every student, no matter what their income or whether they ever attended public school. The number of new vouchers is allowed to grow by 25,000 over six years and eligibility for public funding is extended from age 4 to age 22 for private school students who get the vouchers. Only private schools that have more than 50 vouchers and administer specific tests will be required to report test scores if requested – all other private and religious schools continue with no accountability as more tax dollars are removed from public schools.



SB 1522 and HB 2537– State budget for FY 2017 – 2018

*Sponsored by Senator Steve Yarbrough and Representative J.D. Mesnard*

The budget includes several small steps. Aunts, uncles and other relatives who raise abused and neglected children will now be able to get a small monthly payment to keep them more financially stable. And school districts with a high percentage of low-income students can apply for \$8 million in grants to strengthen their early literacy strategies and improve third grade reading success.



But the budget includes no plan to close an annual deficit of \$1.1 billion in cuts to public schools that have not been restored, leaving Arizona families and businesses facing a teacher shortage, outdated textbooks and technology, and unsafe school buses and school facilities.

The budget invests only a 1% increase in teacher pay with another 1% “intended” for next year. The budget drains more resources away from public education in future years. Private school tax credits continue to grow by 20% annually while new tax cuts will take more than \$30 million each year out of the coffers for education with no evidence of any return on investment.



## SB 1416 – Corporate tax cuts

*Sponsored by Senator Frank Pratt*

This legislation, passed after the budget was already adopted, renews and expands a variety of tax cuts for certain businesses with no replacement revenue and no evidence or measurement of a return on investment. The tax cuts include the continuation and expansion of an income tax credit for select employers that was scheduled to expire, keeping another corporate income tax credit that was scheduled to be reduced, and exempting certain sales of aircraft from sales and use taxes. The tax policies treat some businesses preferentially and subsidize employers for jobs and investments that would be made without the tax cuts. The law removes more than \$10 million each year from state general fund resources, putting the state's structural balance into jeopardy and leaving less funding available to address deficits and priorities in public education.



## SB 1341 – Allows youth living in foster care to purchase auto insurance

*Sponsored by Senator David Bradley*



Teens who live in foster care find it difficult to have the “normal” experiences of growing up, such as working a job, driving a car, and getting together with friends. This legislation takes one step forward in giving youth in foster care a tool they need to support their transition into adulthood. The law permits youth living in foster care who are at least 16 years old and who have taken a driver safety course to buy auto insurance on their own.



### *How to use this guide:*

*The voting records in this booklet track four bills that passed in 2017. During the legislative session, Children's Action Alliance carefully analyzed and took a stand on these measures, asking lawmakers to vote “yes” or “no” for kids.*

*In the chart, a ★ is shown for each vote for kids that corresponds to our recommendation. If the legislator cast a vote contrary to what is best for kids, the vote box is left blank. A “NO VOTE” is not counted in the percentage score.*

*To find which elected officials represent you, please visit our website at [AZChildren.org](http://AZChildren.org).*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, REGION OF STATE	SB 1431 ESA's	SB 1341 FOSTER YOUTH CAR INSURANCE	SB 1522 STATE BUDGET	SB 1416 CORPORATE TAX CUTS	SCORE
JOHN ALLEN	15 – N. PHOENIX		★			25%
LELA ALSTON	24 – CENTRAL, E. PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
RICHARD ANDRADE	29 – WEST PHOENIX, GLENDALE	★	★	★	★	100%
BRENDA BARTON	6 – SEDONA, FLAGSTAFF, SNOWFLAKE		NO VOTE			0%
WENONA BENALLY	7 – N.E. ARIZONA	★	NO VOTE	NO VOTE	NO VOTE	100%
ISELA BLANC	26 – TEMPE	★		★	★	75%
REGINALD BOLDING	27 – S. PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
RUSTY BOWERS	25 – MESA					0%
PAUL BOYER	20 – N.W. PHOENIX		★			25%
KELLI BUTLER	28 – N.E. PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
NOEL CAMPBELL	1 – ANTHEM, YAVAPAI COUNTY					0%
MARK CARDENAS	19 – AVONDALE, TOLLESON	★	★	★	★	100%
HEATHER CARTER	15 – N. PHOENIX	★	★			50%
CESAR CHAVEZ	29 - WEST PHOENIX, GLENDALE	★	★	★		75%
KEN CLARK	24 - CENTRAL AND EAST PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
TODD CLODFELTER	10 – EAST, CENTRAL TUCSON	★				25%
REGINA COBB	5 - LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES		★			25%
DOUG COLEMAN	16 - APACHE JUNCTION, EAST MESA	★				25%
DAVID COOK	8 - PINAL COUNTY		★			25%
ERIC DESCHEENIE	7- NORTHEAST ARIZONA	★	★	★	NO VOTE	100%
KIRSTEN ENGEL	10 - EAST, CENTRAL TUCSON	★	★	★	★	100%
MITZI EPSTEIN	18 - AHWATUKEE, CHANDLER, S. TEMPE	★	★	★	NO VOTE	100%
DIEGO ESPINOZA	19 - AVONDALE, TOLLESON	★	★	★	★	100%
E. FARNSWORTH	12 - GILBERT				★	25%
CHARLENE FERNANDEZ	4 - SOUTH YUMA AND WEST PIMA COUNTIES	★	★	★	★	100%
MARK FINCHEM	11 - MARANA, ORO VALLEY					0%
RANDALL FRIESE	9 - MIDTOWN TUCSON	★	★	★	★	100%
ROSANNA GABALDON	2 – SOUTH TUCSON, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	★	★	★	★	100%
SALLY ANN GONZALES	3 - WEST TUCSON	NO VOTE	★	★	NO VOTE	100%
TRAVIS GRANTHAM	12 - GILBERT				★	25%
DANIEL HERNANDEZ	2 - SOUTH TUCSON, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	★	★	★	NO VOTE	100%

★ = a vote for kids

blank = no vote for kids

no vote = not voting or absent



STATE REPRESENTATIVE	LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, REGION OF STATE	SB 1431 ESA's	SB 1341 FOSTER YOUTH CAR INSURANCE	SB 1522 STATE BUDGET	SB 1416 CORPORATE TAX CUTS	SCORE
DREW JOHN	14- SOUTHEAST ARIZONA		★			25%
ANTHONY KERN	20 - NORTHWEST PHOENIX					0%
JAY LAWRENCE	23 - SCOTTSDALE, FOUNTAIN HILLS					0%
VINCE LEACH	11 - MARANA, ORO VALLEY					0%
DAVID LIVINGSTON	22 - SURPRISE, SUN CITY WEST		★			25%
PHIL LOVAS	22 - SURPRISE, SUN CITY WEST		NO VOTE	NO VOTE	NO VOTE	0%
RAY MARTINEZ	30 - WEST CENTRAL PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
J.D. MESNARD	17- CHANDLER					0%
DARIN MITCHELL	13 - NORTH YUMA, WEST MARICOPA COUNTIES		★		NO VOTE	33%
PAUL MOSLEY	5 - SOUTH YUMA, WEST PIMA COUNTIES		★		NO VOTE	33%
TONY NAVARRETE	30 - WEST CENTRAL PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
JILL NORGAARD	18 - AHWATUKEE, CHANDLER, S. TEMPE					0%
BECKY NUTT	14 - SOUTHEAST ARIZONA		★			25%
KEVIN PAYNE	21 - PEORIA, SUN CITY		★			25%
PAMELA POWERS HANNLEY	9 - MIDTOWN TUCSON	★	★	★	★	100%
REBECCA RIOS	27 - SOUTH PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
TONY RIVERO	21 - PEORIA, SUN CITY					0%
JESUS RUBALCAVA	4 - SOUTH YUMA, WEST PIMA COUNTIES	★	★	★	★	100%
MACARIO SALDATE	3 - WEST TUCSON	★	★	★	★	100%
ATHENA SALMAN	26 - TEMPE	★	★	★	★	100%
DON SHOOTER	13 - NORTH YUMA, WEST MARICOPA COUNTIES		NO VOTE			0%
T.J. SHOPE	8 - PINAL COUNTY		★			25%
DAVID STRINGER	1 - ANTHEM, YAVAPAI COUNTY		★			25%
MARIA SYMS	28 - NORTHEAST PHOENIX		★			25%
BOB THORPE	6 - SEDONA, FLAGSTAFF, SNOWFLAKE					0%
BEN TOMA	22 - SURPRISE, SUN CITY WEST	NO VOTE	NO VOTE			0%
KELLI TOWNSEND	16 - APACHE JUNCTION, EAST MESA					0%
MICHELLE UDALL	25 - MESA	★	★			50%
MICHELLE UGENTI-RITA	23 - SCOTTSDALE, FOUNTAIN HILLS		★			25%
JEFF WENINGER	17 - CHANDLER		★			25%

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STATE SENATOR	LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, REGION OF STATE	SB 1431 ESA'S	SB 1341 FOSTER YOUTH CAR INSURANCE	SB 1522 STATE BUDGET	SB 1416 CORP TAX CUTS	SCORE
SYLVIA ALLEN	6 - SEDONA, FLAGSTAFF, SNOWFLAKE		★			25%
NANCY BARTO	15- NORTH PHOENIX		★			25%
SONNY BORRELLI	5 - LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES		★			25%
SEAN BOWIE	18 - AHWATUKEE, CHANDLER, S. TEMPE	★	★	★		75%
DAVID BRADLEY	10 - EAST AND CENTRAL TUCSON	★	★	★		75%
KATE BROPHY MCGEE	28 - NORTHEAST PHOENIX	★	★			50%
JUDY BURGESS	22 - SURPRISE, SUN CITY WEST		★		★	50%
OLIVIA CAJERO BEDFORD	3 - WEST TUCSON	★	★	★		75%
LUPE CONTRERAS	19 - AVONDALE, TOLLESON	★	★	★	★	100%
ANDREA DALESSANDRO	2 - S. TUCSON, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	★	★	★		75%
KAREN FANN	1 - ANTHEM, YAVAPAI COUNTY		★			25%
STEVE FARLEY	9 - MIDTOWN TUCSON	★	★	★	★	100%
DAVID FARNSWORTH	16 - APACHE JUNCTION, E. MESA		★		★	50%
GAIL GRIFFIN	14 - SOUTHEAST ARIZONA		★			25%
KATIE HOBBS	24 - CENTRAL AND EAST PHOENIX	★	★	★	★	100%
JOHN KAVANAGH	23 - SCOTTSDALE, FOUNTAIN HILLS		★		NO VOTE	33%
DEBBIE LESKO	21 - PEORIA, SUN CITY		★			25%
JUAN MENDEZ	26 - TEMPE	★	★	★	★	100%
ROBERT MEZA	30 - WEST CENTRAL PHOENIX	NO VOTE	★	★		67%
CATHERINE MIRANDA	27- SOUTH PHOENIX	★	★	★		75%
STEVE MONTENEGRO	13 - N. YUMA CO., W. MARICOPA CO.		★			25%
LISA OTONDO	4 - S. YUMA COUNTY, W. PIMA COUNTY	★	★	★		75%
JAMESCITA PESHAKAI	7 - NORTHEAST ARIZONA	★	★	★		75%
WARREN PETERSEN	12 - GILBERT		★		★	50%
FRANK PRATT	8 - PINAL COUNTY		★			25%
MARTIN QUEZADA	29 - WEST PHOENIX, GLENDALE	★	★	★	★	100%
STEVE SMITH	11- MARANA, ORO VALLEY		★			25%
ROBERT WORSLEY	25 - MESA		★			25%
STEVE YARBROUGH	17- CHANDLER		★			25%
KIMBERLY YEE	20 - NORTHWEST PHOENIX		★			25%

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## AZ STILL HAS SHORTEST TANF LIFETIME TIME LIMIT

Some families can  
participate for 24 months

Two years ago, the legislature and Governor Ducey cut the lifetime limit for TANF cash assistance benefits to 12 months – making Arizona the only state in the nation with such a short time limit. The impact of this cut falls on children facing extreme poverty because 7 out of 10 TANF participants are kids. TANF gives them a temporary cushion against family crisis while their moms prepare to enter or re-enter the workforce.

In his state of the state address in January, Governor Ducey announced that he would champion policies to help families build a bridge out of poverty. He signed into law HB 2372 that gives some families the opportunity to participate in TANF for up to 24 months.

But the new law is a bridge with missing guardrails that leaves behind the very children who need help the most.

The law gives people who have been convicted of drug felonies a second chance to rebuild their lives by making them eligible for SNAP benefits (known as Food Stamps). But it doesn't give children living with struggling moms that same second chance. The bill closes the door at 12 months for children whose moms miss some of the program rules, even if they fix their mistakes.

During the final vote on the bill, Governor Ducey issued a statement saying he is committed to making sure that families have multiple opportunities to succeed. We look forward to working with the Department of Economic Security to improve their practices so that TANF can give more children a bridge out of poverty.

### KidsCare is Working

*Thanks to the Arizona legislature, more than 21,000 children now have affordable coverage through KidsCare.*

*Arizona's rate of uninsured children has improved. But this progress is at risk due to federal and state policy changes.*

*We're counting on state lawmakers to work side by side with our congressional delegation to keep KidsCare and AHCCCS and connect more children with the coverage they need to grow up healthy.*

# THE 2018 STATE BUDGET



\*Net new state funding:  
\$32 per student  
\*Teacher bonus:  
only \$450 next year



small  
**INVESTMENTS**



\*Only \$34 M for  
\$288 M needed in  
school repairs  
\*\$8 M in early literacy  
grants for poor schools

**FAR TOO LITTLE TO:**  
\*REDUCE TEACHER SHORTAGE  
\*UPDATE TEXTBOOKS + TECHNOLOGY  
\*REPAIR SCHOOL BUSES AND BUILDINGS

**SOME THINGS ARE  
LOOKING BETTER...**



\*NO new prison beds  
\*Fewer kids in foster care  
\*Restores \$30 M for streets and highways  
\*\$27 M /yr + inflation for university facilities  
\*Small patches to shredded safety net

## WHAT IS UNBALANCED?

- \*More than \$239 M diverted to private schools
- \*\$38 M "bonus" only to excelling schools while basic bills go unpaid
- \*More than \$1 BILLION a year in cuts to public schools not restored
- \*More than \$30 M in new tax cuts mean NO long-term funding for schools
- \*Total budget \$800 M ↓ from FY 2008 - Arizona population ↑ 600,000