Governor Ducey, Where’s the Security for Arizona’s Children and Families?

Phoenix, AZ – The following is a statement from CAA president and CEO, Dana Wolfe Naimark, on Governor Doug Ducey’s State of the State remarks this afternoon:

“In his State of the State address today, Governor Ducey said he wants to “secure Arizona’s future,” but his limited agenda leaves a whole generation of children growing up without any security for their education and success.

“We support the Governor’s proposal to increase the size of Arizona’s Rainy Day Fund. He’s right that a more robust balance will help protect public education and other priorities families count on from getting destroyed during the next economic downturn.

“But the Governor continues to focus only on marginal changes in public education. He is neglecting the bold and meaningful steps that today’s conditions demand. Parents, teachers, faith leaders, voters from all parties and business CEOs have called for significant new investments to meet our shared education goals. There is no security for Arizona families or the Arizona economy if the Governor fails to lead in the big areas that matter most.

“Governor Ducey said that Arizona has weathered the storm of the Great Recession and built up a $1 billion surplus. But he fails to note that children’s education and stability have been battered and damaged by the storm, and the so-called “surplus” represents years of neglected responsibilities by Arizona politicians.

“The Governor’s vow to “hold the line on raising taxes” leaves Arizona students without the resources they can count on for their classrooms – without permanent teachers, updated textbooks and technology, safe and functional facilities, counselors and bus drivers who keep them safe and learning every day. His promises for education built only on economic growth will simply disappear when the economic cycle turns down.

“Governor Ducey has grown fond of bragging that Arizona is nothing like Congress and Washington DC. But, in fact, life in our state capitol often resembles the partisan paralysis in Congress with a lack of meaningful dialogue or compromise. Governor Ducey can bring this bragging point to life by meeting and working with Red for Ed, March for Our Lives, Democratic lawmakers, and other groups with differing perspectives to address the biggest challenges facing our state.

“The State of the State speech is the launch of the legislative session and we look forward to working with the Governor, state legislators, and diverse partners across Arizona to develop the strongest public policies and budgets for children’s health, education, and security.”

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