

Governor Doug Ducey	Senator Karen Fann, Senate President
Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower	Senator Rick Gray, Senate Majority Leader
Representative Rusty Bowers, Speaker of the House	Senator Rebecca Rios, Senate Democratic Leader
Representative Ben Toma, House Majority Leader	Senator Lupe Contreras, Assistant Senate Democratic Leader
Representative Reginald Bolding, House Democratic Leader	Senator Martin Quezada, Senate Democratic Whip
Representative Jennifer Longdon, Assistant House Democratic Leader	Senator Victoria Steele, Senate Democratic Whip
Representative Domingo DeGrazia, House Democratic Whip	Arizona Senate
Arizona House of Representatives	

February 24, 2021

FOR ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Governor Ducey and leaders of the Arizona legislature:

Our organizations are influential throughout the state advocating for a diverse range of issues that Arizonans care deeply about. We do not often have the opportunity to work together, but we do so at this critical time to urge you to pass a state budget that builds a stronger future for all Arizonans with investments in infrastructure, health care, and jobs. Arizonans are concerned with how they and their families will get through this health and economic crisis and they are looking to you to provide the investments that foster job training and skill acquisition; and assist working families struggling to afford the basics.

You can choose which road Arizona will take toward the future: one in which the state adequately funds vital resources so that all Arizonans have the supports needed to move up the economic ladder or a fiscally irresponsible and disastrous path for Arizona's future that relies on cutting taxes and shuts the door on Arizona's economic growth. Arizona is already a low tax state, but low taxes alone will not be enough if people cannot afford the cost of housing, tuition and child care and a low-skilled workforce cannot support high-wage jobs.

Recent polls show that more tax cuts are not a high priority for Arizona voters. What is important to them is that state lawmakers are funding the fundamental resources that enable them to work, receive an education, and provide for their families. Cutting taxes now in the middle of a pandemic is a risky and dangerous move at a time when Arizonans are desperately looking for certainty. As you know, while it only takes a simple majority vote to enact tax cuts, it would take a two-thirds supermajority vote of both chambers to repeal the tax cuts later if the state experiences a revenue shortfall.

We look forward to working together with you to build a state budget that invests in Arizonans and will bring our state out of these challenging times stronger than before. Alternatively, we are also ready to work together to oppose any shortsighted budget proposals that place a greater emphasis on tax cuts than funding the services that will keep Arizona thriving.

Sincerely,

Arizona Center for Economic Progress

Arizona Center for Empowerment

Arizona Center for Women's Advancement

Arizona Education Association

Arizona Faith Network

Billie K. Fidlin

President

Arizona Faith Network Board of Directors

Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors

Arizona Ground Game

Arizona Interfaith Network

Arizona Rural Health Association

Arizona School Counselors Association

American Association of University Women AZ

Center for Economic Integrity

Joseph Garcia

Executive Director

Chicanos Por La Causa Action Fund

Child and Family Resources, Inc.

Children's Action Alliance

Robert T. Hoshibata,

Resident Bishop

The Desert Southwest Conference

The United Methodist Church

Empowerment Systems, Inc.

League of Women Voters of Arizona

Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)

Metropolitan Education Commission

National Council of Jewish Women AZ

Opportunity Arizona

Our Family Services

People's Defense Initiative

Pima Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Dustin Williams

Pima County School Superintendent

Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition

Save Our Schools Arizona

Southwest Fair Housing Council

Stand for Children Arizona

Tucson Unified Parent Advisory Council (TUPAC)

Wildfire: Igniting Community Action to End Poverty in Arizona