



# NEWS RELEASE

## ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Speaker of the House Andy Tobin, R-Prescott (Dist. 01)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SPEAKER TOBIN & MAJORITY WHIP GRAY DENIED ACCESS TO NOGALES FACILITY**

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (June. 11, 2014) – Speaker of the House Andy Tobin and Majority Whip Rick Gray were denied access to the Nogales facility where about 750 unaccompanied alien children are being held.

“I understand what CBP [Customs and Border Protection] is up against, but as the Speaker of the House and member of the Arizona Legislature, it is important to verify how these children are being treated,” said Speaker Tobin. “My fellow legislators want to know, and denying me access clearly demonstrates what is wrong with Washington.”

If Arizona had attempted a similar “inhumane stunt” the national outcry would have been deafening, added Tobin.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) bused the children from Texas to Arizona, and CBP is housing them in the Nogales facility until other accommodations become available.

Media reports have cited concerns that the children are being held for longer than they should at the CPB facility, which has been described as a refurbished warehouse with no indoor plumbing.

The Speaker and Majority Whip drove down to inspect the facility Wednesday, June 11, 2014, but CBP denied them access. CBP told Speaker Tobin that he needed to give the agency a 72-hour notice. Speaker Tobin noted that Mesa Mayor Scott Smith was granted access to the facility Wednesday morning.

“This humanitarian crisis is a direct result of the federal government’s failure to secure the border and enforce our laws,” said Speaker Tobin. “Not allowing us to inspect the facility does not serve the children held there or the citizens of Arizona. It only serves Washington.”

The Speaker and Majority Whip met with Nogales Mayor Arthur Garino of Nogales, who told them that showers and toilet facilities were available as well as a medical team and others resources, including phones and an outside covered play area.

Nevertheless, the speaker said that the lack of transparency after trying to secretly dump these children at bus station in Phoenix and Tucson is absolutely unacceptable. “We all want answers and we want to verify what we’re being told.”

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