



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**

**Representative Maria Syms (R-28)**

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Friday, April 7, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Representative Maria Syms Releases Statement on ESA Vote

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative Maria Syms (R-28) released the following statement regarding her vote in favor of [SB 1431](#). The bill expands the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program and adds more fiscal responsibility, academic accountability, and transparency to the program.

**“I am proud to have fought for amendments to SB 1431 to protect our public schools while giving parents a choice,”** said Rep. Syms. **“The bill phases in expansion and puts a firm cap on the current program’s unlimited expansion, and it gives the Arizona Department of Education the tools it needs to make the program transparent and accountable to the public.”**

**“SB 1431 puts educational choices where they belong: in the hands of parents and students. By empowering parents and creating more opportunities for students, Arizona kids can find the schools that best fit their needs. I applaud the Legislature for taking action and thank Governor Ducey for signing it into law.”**

Major components of the bill include:

- Phased-in expansion of ESA opportunities to all Arizona public school students.
- Requirement that ESA students in grades 3-12 annually take an assessment that measures their educational proficiencies.
- Requirement that the Arizona Department of Education openly disclose all expenditures made as part of the ESA program.
- Opportunities for all income levels by extending additional resources to families 250% or below the federal poverty level.
- Continued limitations on enrollment in the program to allow for reasonable and predictable growth.

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