



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17)

Representative Heather Carter (R-15)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Mesnard and Representative Carter Applaud Governor Ducey for Signing Opioid Emergency Declaration

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17) and Representative Heather Carter (R-15), chairwoman of the House Health Committee, today applauded Governor Doug Ducey for signing an emergency declaration giving the state greater flexibility to address the growing opioid crisis.

In addition to allowing the state to better coordinate opioid abuse prevention efforts among both the public and private sector, the declaration will require more detailed reporting of opioid-related deaths.

“The Legislature stands ready to continue our work with Governor Ducey to combat opioid abuse in Arizona,” said Speaker Mesnard. **“I thank Governor Ducey for making the opioid crisis a priority and ensuring that it receives appropriate resources and attention.”**

“By supplying lawmakers and other public health officials with improved information on opioid-related deaths, we can make more informed decisions and offer impactful legislative solutions to this growing crisis,” said Representative Carter. **“Arizona has taken some great first steps in addressing opioid abuse, but more work needs to be done. I look forward to continuing that work with Governor Ducey.”**

Representative Carter has made combatting drug abuse a priority of the House Health Committee. Among the legislation that Representative Carter got signed into law this year was [HB 2493](#). The new law establishes a Drug Overdose Review Team within the Arizona Department of Health Services to track drug overdose fatalities and conduct annual analysis on the causes and incidents of overdose fatalities.

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