



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Office of Representative Anthony Kern, R-20

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Kern Introduces Legislation to End Taxpayer Funding of Gender Reassignment Surgery for Prisoners and Medicaid Recipients

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Anthony Kern (R-20) last week introduced two bills in an effort to protect taxpayers from subsidizing gender reassignment surgeries for prisoners and Medicaid members. [HB 2293](#), if enacted, would prevent taxpayer monies from funding gender reassignment surgeries for prisoners. Similarly, [HB 2294](#) would prevent taxpayer funding of gender reassignment surgeries for Medicaid recipients.

“I am always in favor of personal freedoms and an individual’s right to make choices, but never at the expense of the taxpayer,” says Kern. **“The fact of the matter is, taxpayers in California had to foot the bill for a gender reassignment surgery, and now the precedent has been set to attempt to push other states into supporting this.”**

California recently performed the first state-funded sex reassignment surgery which prompted a nationwide outcry. The decision to allow this for Shiloh Heavenly Quine, a 57-year-old convicted first-degree murderer with no possibility of parole cost California taxpayers an estimated \$100,000 for surgery and medication related to the transition. In addition to the first-degree murder conviction in the 1980s, Quine was found guilty of kidnapping, robbery, and ransom.

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