



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

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

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Friday, November 17, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Mesnard Reacts to AZ Supreme Court Ruling on Medicaid Expansion

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker J.D. Mesnard today released the following statement regarding the Arizona Supreme Court's decision that a hospital assessment fee used to expand Medicaid in 2013 does not constitute a tax:

"While I appreciate the added clarity the Court has given regarding Prop 108, this ruling means it will be even more important for the Legislature to ensure proper protections of taxpayers when it comes to the use of assessments," said Speaker Mesnard. "The voters overwhelmingly passed Prop 108 with 71% of the vote in 1992, so it is clear Arizonans support requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature when taking more of their money. Although one can debate whether the voters, in providing an exception for practical administrative fees, really envisioned a fee designed to generate hundreds of millions of dollars, it will be incumbent on the Legislature moving forward to resist the temptation to use the Court's opinion in this case to circumvent the taxpayer protections intended in Prop 108. We must not abuse the flexibility they have given us."

###

CONTACT:

Matthew Specht
Director of Communications
House Majority Staff
602-926-5518
mspecht@azleg.gov