



# PRESS RELEASE Arizona State Senate

1700 W Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

## Senator Barbara McGuire, D-8

### PRESS RELEASE

May 17, 2013

## Senate passes bipartisan budget investing in future of Arizona and rural counties

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Senator Barbara McGuire released the following statement on the passage of the state budget by the Senate late Thursday night.

The bipartisan budget offers a number of important measures, including:

- Medicaid expansion, which would bring millions of dollars in job creation and provide health care coverage for more than 350,000 Arizonans.
- Providing critical funding for Child Protective Services.
- Removing language that would have made permanent the current cuts to funding levels of K-12 schools, which have seen almost \$3 billion in cuts since 2008.
- Increasing university funding, creating performance incentives and additional funding for the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

The budget included an amendment by Sen. McGuire that increases, from 10 to 13, the number of rural Arizona counties that will each receive a one-time payment of \$550,000 from the state's general fund to shore up county budgets that have seen cuts in recent years. The three additional counties to receive these payments are Pinal, Yavapai and Mohave.

“This bipartisan budget includes solutions to many of the problems our state and counties have faced because of the economic crisis,” said Sen. McGuire.

“With this budget we are protecting vulnerable children, providing for our kids’ education, and keeping our rural communities strong. Medicaid expansion will be especially important in keeping our rural hospitals open by reducing the rate of uncompensated care they are currently providing.”

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