



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 19, 2026

The Honorable Steve Montenegro
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: HB2611 group homes; safety; training; rights

Speaker Montenegro,

Today I vetoed HB2611. I appreciate the sponsor's intent to improve the experience for children in the care of the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), namely in group homes. Concurrently, I have signed Senate Bill 1496 which will codify this bill's expansion of the Foster Care Bill of Rights.

Every child in our state, especially those involved with DCS, deserves to feel safe, secure, and stable. However, parts of this legislation go too far and would deprive youth in group homes of the normalcy they deserve in their living arrangements. I invite policymakers to join me in more productive endeavors to reduce Arizona's use of congregate care and expand access to behavioral health interventions for youth.

I am committed to implementing legislation that has a real, tangible impact on child safety and well-being. That is why I am proud to have signed the following bills today, in addition to others enacted earlier this year:

- SB1127 duty to report; abuse; neglect (Werner);
- SB1174 DCS; intake hotline; case history (Werner)
- SB1496 DCS; policies; procedures (Werner)
- SB1631 DCS; sexual abuse allegations; interviews (Werner)
- SB1821 DCS; training; child placement; management (Farnsworth)
- HB2041 child neglect; financial resources; exception (Fink)
- HB2321 DCS; credit freeze; reporting (Gress)
- HB2661 parents' rights; guardianship; notice (Fink)

- HB4042 termination; parent-child relationship; service (Weninger)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KH', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona

cc:

The Honorable Warren Petersen
The Honorable Walt Blackman
The Honorable Adrian Fontes